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MASSERA VISITS SOUTH, MAKES STATEMENT

PY270237Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2020 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Rio Grande, Tierra del Fuego, 26 Apr--Navy Commander in Chief Emilio Eduardo Massera has stated that he wanted the dwellers in the area who are really striving for the fatherland and for sovereignty to trust and rest assured that the national government, through the president, ministers and all the officials, are always looking after the south and are concerned about it. Regarding the border problem with Chile in the southern area, he said that negotiations were undertaken by commission No 1 and that now commission No 2, which will be headed by Gen Echeverry Boneo, "will continue the talks with our neighbors, in one way or another, in order to arrive at the solution we all hope for, a solution which will not jeopardize our sovereignty."

He also said: "As navy commander, I intend to keep admirals, active and retired high-ranking officers and all the navy constantly informed on the status of the present national reorganization process so that at the time the navy has to take decisions jointly with the other armed forces, all the navy officers may know clearly what the thrust of the decision is." He concluded: "I feel happy and proud each time I come to this area because, as I stated before, I understand that here people are working for the fatherland and for sovereignty." Admiral Massera made these statements during a visit to the area today, shortly before leaving for Santa Cruz to preside at the inauguration of the Punta Quilla pier.

AIR FORCE GENERALS STUDY REORGANIZATION PROCESS

PY270328Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2142 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Communique released by air force headquarters on 26 April in Buenos Aires]

[Text] A meeting of commanders, which was attended by all generals on active duty, continued to study aspects of the management of the process for national reorganization, especially those concerning the structure and functioning of the state's various branches within the framework of the documents which regulate them, such as Law No 21,256 (Regulation for the Functioning of the Military Junta, National Executive Branch and the Legislative Advisory Commission) and the statute for the process of national reorganization.

A study was also made regarding the method and time frame for implementing the mechanisms of these documents, which establish the regulations for naming the president, in order to return to previously established procedures.

The meeting, which was held in the Condor Building, began at 1100 and concluded at 1320.

HARGUINDEGUY EXPLAINS GOVERNMENT POLICY ON POLITICAL PARTIES

PY261544Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0125 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text of statement by Interior Minister Harguindeguy to government house press corps on 25 April]

[Excerpts] It is my duty as minister of the interior to speak with you regarding issues for which I am responsible, and none other.

My fundamental point is to speak with you concerning the resurgence of political party activity which we have all been able to observe during the past few weeks.

I should remind you that Act 6 of the military junta and Law No 21,323 are still in effect. This means that political party activity is banned.

There is a reason for this. It is essential to avoid a return to the situation which demanded military intervention. It is essential to avoid returning to the past. Responsibility for the past should not be thrust on the people in general, but on those who led them astray.

There is no room during the present phase for party participation, and even less so for coalitions such as the Hour of the People, or similar groups.

We don't want to mold the Argentine people ideologically on political issues. It is already clear that since March 1976, as at present, power has been exclusively exercised by the armed forces.

We have always wanted the nation, its inhabitants, to participate in the work undertaken by the armed forces to reorganize the country. But at this stage, this participation does not include political parties, the great majority of which bear their share of responsibility because of their action or apathy.

With respect to this, we should recall the results of the amnesty law. Their memory is still fresh. Fresh too is the blood which good Argentines were forced to spill because of those who benefitted from the amnesty. Let us recall the praise and justifications they found for subversion, and the high price of blood and suffering which we have had to pay as a result of, among other things, that amnesty.

Even a former president fell as a result of a subversive's bullets, and there was one political leader who applauded and justified such a vile, unnecessary and cowardly assassination.

Those who in one way or another were responsible for the blood which ran through our country should consider themselves alienated from the nation's future after examining their own past actions. Let me once again repeat what I never tire of saying: The majority of political parties, as we knew them between 1973 and 1976, have no place in the future of Argentina. Those who united or joined together for electoral purposes or maneuvers and failed cannot now raise their voices to advise nor to dispute the government's measures.

Consequently, before any party action is undertaken, those who were not able or did not know how to meet their responsibility at the time should step aside and allow new men with better ideas and more strength to replace them.

When the national reorganization plan talks about reviving institutions it is because we want to achieve full political stability. When that time comes we will be able to build the nation which all Argentines hope for, without the bitter memories of a regrettable past.

Let it be clear that there is no political opening, not the way that politicians want to understand it. The government is not seeking party votes or support. In addition, it doesn't need them.

It seeks the support of the people on the basis of its successes and failures, which have resulted from an undertaking inspired by the purest good faith and national sentiment.

We are calling for the help of those who can contribute ideas and efforts, and not those who continue to harbor their previous weaknesses and failures. We have spoken about dialog, which the government maintains and will continue to maintain as an essential instrument of the political plan, not of political opening. The persons most representative of national life are called to take part in this dialog. It is inconceivable that those who did not know how to live up to their responsibilities as leaders when they had the opportunity should today pretend to be responsible participants in the dialog. It should be very clear that all those who aided Marxism in all its forms anywhere in the country will be completely excluded from the dialog. They have been the authors and accomplices of subversion and anarchy. Let it also be clear that we understand subversives to be not only those who took up arms to impose foreign ideas on our country but also those who protected and encouraged those actions, those who supported and applauded subversion and later justified it. Many leaders made use of the phrase "violence from above breeds violence from below." But we do not know if they did so to win over the subversive faction of our society or out of fear.

From the dialog we have already begun with more suitable, capable and virtuous persons, we will obtain a variety of ideas and proposals designed to make up the final political proposal from the armed forces to the Argentine nation. The proposal will be the result of a blending of ideas among Argentines.

Only when that stage of consolidation of proposals is over will we be able to continue with our plan to fully restore our republican, representative and federal form of government. Political parties will have their role in the country's future. They are essential and necessary elements for our representative form of government: but not now. They too will need to adapt themselves to the institutions which give them life and the political proposal will establish the guidelines which their activities should follow. Organized and revived into a few truly representative currents of thought, they will have their opportunity to contribute and collaborate. I repeat: not now. The political party opening which some foresee is not in view. I repeat that the government does not seek agreements, pacts or coalitions, but rather the sincere support of those who still recall the past. Look at the present realistically and look forward to a better future for all Argentines.

URUGUAYAN RADIO INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES

PY260322Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] The Argentine foreign minister has stated to Radio Carve that Argentina will invite President Aparicio Mendez to attend the World Cup soccer championship.

Rear Adm Oscar Antonio Montes was questioned by Radio Carve on the issue, and he stated that the Argentine Foreign Ministry will send the appropriate invitation. Montes also indicated that the World Cup event is an opportunity to invite several leaders of the countries which are participating in the tournament, and he (?denied) that the opportunity will be appropriate for a summit meeting. In this regard, he said that the visit of presidents to Argentina in June will have an official character but will be restricted to the activities linked with the tournament.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Foreign Minister, why has the Argentine Navy not yet supported Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla for a new term?

[Answer] I believe that this is an issue which should not be considered, whether or not the Argentine Navy is giving its support. This is not true. I openly deny it. This is a problem to be solved by the Junta of the commanders in chief, such as was stated in the official communique issued by the Junta.

[Question] (What are) the problems which worry Argentina and Uruguay most at the OAS?

[Answer] I should say that there is no specific problem which worries Argentina or Uruguay. The (issues) to be discussed at the OAS deal with Latin American relations. Argentina and Uruguay will present their proposals and this does not mean that there is agreement on these proposals. Each country will present its proposals after studying it [words indistinct] of the normal and future policy of the two countries. [end recording]

THREE OF LA OPINION STAFF FIRED BY GOVERNMENT INTERVENTOR

PY270143Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr--Luis Clur, Abel Maloney and Sanchez Junoy, director, chief editor and columnist of the newspaper LA OPINION, respectively, have been fired by the military interventor of this newspaper as a result of the event which caused the closure of this morning newspaper for 3 days.

The measure was revealed by the journalists who, as it is known, have asked the Circulo de la Prensa of Buenos Aires to form a tribunal to judge their professional conduct in relation to the article entitled "Definitions in the Army," which caused the sanctions imposed on the newspaper by the executive branch. The formation of a tribunal was requested by Clur and Maloney last Monday, while Sanchez Junoy did the same when he returned to this capital this morning from Santa Fe, where he had gone due to an important family matter.

In his request to the Circulo de la Prensa, the columnist states that he acted "in accordance with the regulations which must be strictly enforced and observed in news reporting in any country where there is freedom of the press."

Clur, Maloney and Sanchez Junoy this afternoon rejected the reasons for the dismissal, which is based on the arguments contained in the executive branch decree which ordered the closure of the newspaper, charging that the report was "inaccurate in all respects."

FEDERAL COURT ISSUES RULING ON HABEAS CORPUS

PY251841Y Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 21 Apr 78 p 8 PY

[Text] Several habeas corpus appeals were rejected by the intervening judges after the executive branch reported that detainees were at its disposal by virtue of the state of siege. These rejections were appealed to the federal criminal and correctional court, which ordered the decisions revoked so that the processing of habeas corpus requests could continue and requested information on the cases from the national executive branch.

The court stated: "In the case of those proceedings and with regard to the judges' decision: given the time which has passed; considering that no reports were requested from the executive branch to establish the reason for the appeals--an action which is the responsibility of the court, which should verify a fair relationship between crime and punishment in the measures taken (in this case detention of the appellants); and considering the specific reasons which resulted in implementation of the state of siege by virtue of which these measures (which placed the appellants at the disposition of the executive branch) were implemented: The court should proceed to request said reports from the federal executive branch."

The court continued by saying that this decision in no way means interference with the executive branch, but is simply the exercise of the duty of all courts to supervise in order to avoid abuses of power. In this way, it added, both the executive and the judicial branches can operate within the sphere of their specific functions.

Consequently, the court rejected the appeals and returned the proceedings to the originating courts so that the habeas corpus proceedings could continue and reports on the cases could be requested from the executive branch.

HERALD COMMENTS ON 'FOURTH MAN,' POLITICAL SCENE

PY241310Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 23 Apr 78 pp 3, 8 PY

["Politics and Labour" column by James Neilson: "Fourth Man at the Door"]

[Text] A muggy climate of expectancy enveloped the country last week, with more and more people becoming convinced that the long-awaited fourth man would step onto the stage at last. This presents the members of the junta with a difficult problem because they have quite plainly not come to a unanimous decision as to who the fourth man--the retired officer who is president but not a member of the three-service junta--should be. Majority feeling in the army is that the fourth man should be General Videla, who would be therefore obliged to give up his post as army commander in chief. His most likely successor in that pivotal position seems still to be General Viola. The air force also seems to think that General Videla should be the fourth man. But the navy, as repeated public statements have made clear, has its reservations. All three services, however, agree on the need for the fourth man to be appointed. The differences concern his identity.

As is often the case when a highly important announcement is expected at any time, some of the news media jumped the gun and said that decisions had been made before they actually had. The main offender was LA OPINION, which seemed to think the Videla supporters in the army were about to foist their own man on the other two services, something the army has been going out of its way to avoid doing. The unlikely story acquired what credibility it had from the fact that LA OPINION is, after all, the army's own newspaper, taken by the government from its original owners in dubious circumstances and against specific constitutional provisions. On this occasion, however, the partisan feelings of LA OPINION ran ahead of its real inside knowledge and a story came out that made nonsense of the monolithic unity the military chiefs so frequently refer to. The story was later rehashed by the afternoon paper CRONICA.

The government response to this was to close down both LA OPINION and CRONICA for three days. While their irritation can be understood, their action was not particularly wise. Had they merely issued an official denial of the story about the army going it alone it would have been believed by most people without hesitation. [paragraph continues]

By putting the papers in the glasshouse for the weekend and Monday, the government merely emphasized that they were treading on some very sore toes.

The government is right to be touchy where the fourth man is concerned, not to speak of service unity, because public perception of the government's strength is a vital factor in any political equation in Argentina. If enough people think the government is uncertain about its mind about anything very much, then its authority will melt away. This is something that the armed forces quite rightly want to avoid, and which only the irresponsible even among those who dislike military governments would welcome right now. In the last few weeks the government's authority has been weakened because of unsatisfied expectations regarding the fourth man. The longer a definitive arrangement is delayed the greater the decline in authority will be. Regaining what has been lost will be a tough task if the rot goes on much more.

One man who must be watching the strange goings-on involving LA OPINION with wry amusement is its founder and first publisher, Jacobo Timerman. On Monday he was finally released from jail after over a year in custody, but he will remain under house arrest until the authorities decide what fate they have reserved for him. The likeliest outcome is that he will be allowed to leave the country after a while.

He was escorted home by a small army of policemen in battledress and there are four police living in his flat with him. As there was never the slightest chance that he would have tried to make a run for it had there been twenty or so guards instead of close on fifty, one can only assume that the government is concerned about his physical safety. And well it might be. Reports of people being kidnapped the moment they were let out of jail and then murdered do not merely send shivers up the spines of even the most phlegmatic, they provide appalling evidence of the savagery of the shadowy war being fought in Argentina, often against people who have apparently done nothing at all but have become symbols for gunmen driven by a lust for murder. They also raise questions about the ability of the government to preserve law and order, the main reason why governments were found necessary in the first place.

The long imprisonment of Timerman will not be remembered with much pride by anyone. There was never any case against him, and all the determined efforts of some determined and imaginative people to make one came to nothing. Investigations into his business affairs have been thorough and have yielded nothing at all, but the now ritual process will be gone through one more time at least before he is allowed to go free. Timerman was a classic scapegoat, a target for dark, disreputable hates and envies of a multitude of people, most of them exceedingly unpleasant. Now the mob fury against him that arose a year ago has died down, but he must still suffer the last agreed-upon punishment of house arrest. Then, perhaps, the mob will find someone else on whom to vent its spite. The moral of this shameful story is: Don't excel. As a newspaper and magazine publisher Timerman ran rings around his rivals. He disturbed a comfortable little world. And he also made a lot of people in the country as a whole realise what it was like to have a lively press nosing around. But they got him in the end, and how.

Another well-known newsman who had an unwelcome visit from some of his enemies was Bernardo Neustadt. Last week half a dozen men invaded the offices of his magazines just before dawn, hogtied the 70-year-old night watchman, and then made off with a photograph of Neustadt with Juan Peron and one of him with General Julio Alsogaray, a typewriter, a portable radio, a television set, an armchair, and some of Neustadt's files. Criminals who wanted the police to think they were terrorists? Terrorists who wanted the police to think they were simply criminals? A fusion of the two, which is all terrorists are anyway? Very mysterious.

If the fourth man business manages to bubble on for another week or so at its present seething intensity it will at least give a rest from public criticism to the economy minister, Jose Martinez De Hoz, even though his efforts to persuade foreigners Argentina is the world's most solid and most spectacularly promising economy are being harmed by it. Martinez de Hoz got it in the neck again last week when the old warhorse of the superpatriotic left, the Barry Goldwater of the part-time proletariat, Oscar Alende, accused him of handing the economy over to a pack of foreigners. Alende seems to hate foreigners with an abiding passion and rarely opens his mouth without berating them for their imperialistic ways, and in an interview with La Plata's EL DIA he went through the latest version of his usual spiel once again.

Alende is a bundle of contradictions. Although he is allegedly against foreign interference, foreign companies, and foreign ideas, he nevertheless ran for the presidency in 1973 as the head of an electoral alliance dominated by the one party in the country that is a straightforward subsidiary of a foreign one: the Communist Party. This suggests his principles are enhanced by a certain amount of flexibility when need be. But then nationalism is to patriotism what sex is to love.

In his EL DIA interview Alende unveiled his new political programme for Argentina. It is determinedly demagogic. He demanded the establishment of a "national, popular, and social" political movement, plus frequent referendums. Referendums are, needless to say, loved by all true demagogues; there is nothing like one to simplify a complex issue and drown any attempt to think. They are also a wonderful substitute for the distressing business of political parties and parliaments. A politician doomed to get only a small minority of the votes anyway can hardly avoid dreaming about them.

Alende accused the government of seizing the March 1976 chaos as a pretext to put into force a long-range economic theory. He takes it for granted that the government only had the right to patch things up with short-term measures. But once a government is in power, arguments about its "right" to bring about change are unreal, especially in the case of de facto military regime. About all that can be said is that any serious government is duty bound to serve the people it rules to the very best of its ability by doing what it really believes to be right, and not by trying to sense what the people may want and then doing that. Governments owe the governed their judgment, not their obedience. But this idea, which is at the very heart of representative government (let alone good dictatorship), is anathema to demagogues. For them, irresponsibility is a sacred principle.

Martinez de Hoz's policies have naturally been coming under massed fire from all sides, and it is an open question whether the most brutal attacks have been from business or from the politicians trying to speak for labour. The March cost of living figures weakened his position and his petulant, off-balance response did nothing to help. He was, of course, still jarred by the murder of Miguel Padilla. But in the world of high-level politics there are no mitigating circumstances. One of the economy minister's main assets was high rock-like self-confidence. After the press conference following the March statistics many thought they could see some cracks in the rock.

BRIEFS

FUTALEUFU PLANT INAUGURATION--Futaleufu, Chubut, 18 Apr--President Jorge Rafael Videla today inaugurated the Futaleufu hydroelectric plant in Chubut Province. The plant, which required an investment of \$320 million, will produce 2.56 billion kw to be used by the Aluar aluminum plant and consumers in the Patagonia region. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTER WARNS AGAINST UNIVERSITY DISRUPTIONS

PY270225Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] We open today's front page with Interior Minister Gen Guillermo Jimenez Gallo's remarks to the press. He energetically warned that the government would not allow any type of disturbance of public order by political activists who are entrenched in San Andres University.

He said that a small group, with a very well-known background, is trying to create an atmosphere of anarchy with the threat of taking the university by assault in order to destroy patrimony which belongs to the people and provides higher education to young people.

Jimenez asserted that the law will be strictly applied and indicated that some political groups, forgetting that this is a civilized country, issue demands in the form of ultimatums in order to achieve the withdrawal of university authorities.

Jimenez said that the groups to which he was referring believe we still live in the [words indistinct] (?age), without taking into account that San Andres University has approximately 18,000 students who should not be affected by a few agitators.

Consequently, he warned that the government, on the basis of current laws, using every possible measure will prevent university authorities from being forced to leave their jobs in view of the requirements made by minorities which do not really represent the students.

Later he said: "It is the duty of all Bolivians to defend the national patrimony because every Bolivian has contributed to it."

Referring to the current electoral process, the interior minister maintained that it is proceeding normally and a positive note, if it can be called that, is that the intensity of insults and calumny has decreased.

TOPATER'S PATINO AYOROA CITED AS POSSIBLE FSB CANDIDATE

PY270232Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] The Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] confirmed tonight that the grassroots and leaders of this party support Col Jose Patino Ayoroa, former minister of the current government and president of the Topater military group, as candidate for the presidency.

In remarks to Radio La Cruz del Sur, Jaime Ponce Caballero, a Falange leader, said that his party's convention, to be held 6-8 May in Cochabamba, will have as its main point the discussion of the party's presidential candidate.

Ponce indicated that Patino is an honorable military officer who is respected by the armed forces and they believe he would be a good alternative.

[begin Ponce recording] He is very well liked and there is the possibility that we will ask Ayoroa to run as a candidate. My party has been seeking an understanding in order to find a candidate who will fulfill the desires of the people and a fully democratic platform.

I believe that Ayorea represents a traditional line within the armed forces and he is one of the (?most honorable) military officers in the country's current crop of armed forces officers.

Therefore, I believe his name must be taken into account as one of the possibilities which the party will study during the convention, that is, if we reach an understanding and agreement (?with other political forces) in order to obtain a national unity candidate [words indistinct] and democratic. [end recording]

It was disclosed today that Patino held a series of talks with FSB leader Mario Gutierrez regarding his running as a candidate.

We asked Ponce about his candidacy and that of Gutierrez in view of a military candidate having emerged. His answer was: [begin Ponce recording] We have not accepted [words indistinct] the precandidacy for president and vice president as a way for leaving the door open for reaching an understanding with other political forces. (?Therefore, this is why the idea) of this candidacy has come about so quickly. Neither Gutierrez nor myself has any personal urge for this type of candidacy and we would prefer to achieve an understanding with larger forces and with the country's democratic forces. [end recording]

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE SURVEYED BY AFP

PY262147Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1708 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 26 Apr--Bolivian political parties have divided themselves on all ideological fronts, as if a strange fever had attacked their leaders, local observers said here today.

The disease of political fragmentation is spreading among the parties and government officials, political leaders and large sectors of the public all deplore this situation which is splitting up the various political forces of the country before the 9 July general elections.

Gen Juan Pereda's official candidacy is backed, to a large extent, by factions of political parties. The main forces supporting Pereda are:

--A faction of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] led by Gaston Moreira, deputy chief of the party, who has been expelled from the FSB by the party's court of honor;

--A group of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] led by Ruben Julio, who has been expelled from that party by other MNR sectors;

--The faction of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] which is called the Christian Social Party [PSC] and is led by Adolfo Palma, who has declined to participate in the PDC in order to form the PSC;

--A sector of the Authentic Revolutionary Party [PRA], led by Walter Rios Gamboa. PRA, in turn, is a faction of the MNR.

There are political divisions also on other ideological fronts.

The Bolivian Socialist Party has been divided in two: the sector led by Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz and the faction led by Guillermo Aponte Burela.

TEL. 27 Apr 78

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BOLIVIA

Jorge Ballin Cuatrecasas Bolivian Communist Party of the pro-Moscow line is the "implacable enemy" of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party led by Oscar Zamora, with its pro-Chinese line.

Bolivian Trotskyism, on the other hand, is divided into five groups, all of them having their origin in the Revolutionary Workers Party, founded by Guillermo Lora 40 years ago.

Two splits have begun to play havoc with the biggest party in Bolivian political history, the MBR, from which the following groups have split away: The National Revolutionary Movement of the Left, led by Hernan Siles Zuzzo, the Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left headed by Juan Lechin; and the already-mentioned PRA, led by Walter Guevara Arte, who is now facing a new internal split.

The only party which has not suffered internal splits so far is the Movement of the Revolutionary Left of Antonio Aranibar, which was born 10 years ago as a splinter group from the PDS.

Such proliferation of political divisions stands in contrast to the present unity of the Bolivian Labor Central and the labor union movement, led by Juan Lechin Oquendo.

NEW LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY FRONT MEETS PRESS

PY661236Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The members of the new Leftist Revolutionary Front (Frente Revolucionario de Izquierda--FRI) held a press conference today during which they said they are ready to begin a dialog with the Democratic and Popular Unity Front of former President Hernan Siles Zuzzo, in order to create a single opposition front.

During this press conference the members of the FRI executive board, which is headed by (Manuel Morales Davila), reported on last Sunday's meeting of the revolutionary left. The FRI was created at this meeting and it is made up of the Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left, the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, the Revolutionary Workers Party, and the Bolivian Workers Revolutionary Party.

LEAD OF MIR LEADERSHIP SAID STILL UNDERGROUND

PY661043Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[Text] Rolando Aronategui, leader of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) for Santa Cruz, has stated that 50 percent of the leadership of this party remains underground because the MIR "still has some doubts about the democratization of the country."

Aronategui announced that a nationwide meeting of leaders of this party which will be held in La Paz in May, will decide the party's position on the current electoral process.

Aronategui added that at this point the party is reorganizing its cadres and registering new members.

MDB LEADER BROSSARD CRITICIZES GEISEL REGIME

FY251418X Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Apr 78 FY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Concluding his analysis of the presidential message to Congress, Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] leader Senator Paulo Brossard today again criticized the constitutional reforms approved in April last year. Brossard noted that while the president of the republic had claimed that those reforms had liberalizing, democratic goals, the people were forced to veer away from the political process after the so-called April package.

Brossard first discussed the appointment of the new state governors by noting that, unlike what was done in 1974, this year the [National Renewal Alliance--ARENA] Party president did not even go to the states to seek consensus. He said that the ARENA state conventions will merely have the role of confirming the appointments made by the president of the republic.

Brossard charged that the process of appointing state governors has now become a clearly pseudoelectoral system in which the states are like simple captainships [capitanias--designation of the first administrative divisions of Brazil] waiting for their governors.

Brossard said that this is the result of continual arbitrariness and neglect of the ideals cherished by the March 1974 revolution. He quoted Senator Magalhaes Pinto--whom he regarded as the civilian head of the revolution--and Col Tarcisio Nunes Ferreira [former commander of an armored infantry battalion stationed in Ponta Grossa, Parana State, who was recently punished for having criticized President Geisel]--whom he regarded as the spokesman for young officers--as saying that this is not the goal sought by the 1964 movement.

He then stated that the present situation is even contrary to the ideas expressed by the first revolutionary president, Marshall Castello Branco, who stated that the revolution was not afraid of elections but that, instead, it strongly favored them.

Brossard said: What we see today is that people are left out of the political process and officially branded as incapable of choosing their own leaders and representatives, and the door is open to a government by chieftains [caciquismo] who will never be elected by popular vote.

Brossard then commented on the report that no reforms will be in the same spirit as the so-called April package, and stated that the opposition has the consolation of knowing that Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo has already declared himself against the essence of the package and in favor of direct elections for governors.

In this regard, and repeating some comments published in the newspapers, Brossard said that despite the omniscience which is characteristic of the president, the Brazil which General Figueiredo will receive will be a nation tired of arbitrariness, dissatisfied with the reforms, and anxious for the return of its sovereignty in choosing its governors and for participation in the decisions which affect the future of everyone.

Repeating that not even in the old republic were people so disrespected as they are now, Brossard referred to what he termed the insensitivity of a government which did not respond to the yearning of the nation and which disregarded serious charges of corruption.

He then recalled that ministers of the economic area ironically responded to the movement of more than 5,000 people in Sao Paulo protesting the high cost of living, while at the same time they solved the case of the economic bank in a shameful manner. In the past the bank's executives would have been ousted, but now the head of the government can hardly be bothered.

Brossard then referred to the dissatisfaction of the working classes, students, farmers and businessmen, who are asking for better salaries, an immediate return to full democracy and the reestablishment of individual guarantees.

He also referred to the desire for amnesty for those who were punished without trial, stating that it is a national desire which sooner or later will be fulfilled, because it deals with a question which is completely identified with the national conscience.

At the end of his speech, Brossard referred to Senator Magalhaes Pinto's campaign, stating that the whole nation was watching him closely and expects that [words indistinct].

And after stating that the nation is no longer satisfied with simple half-way measures, Brossard pointed out the need for a broad and loyal political dialog which cannot be confused with intrigue.

ARENA SENATE LEADER REPLIES TO BROSSARD CRITICISM

PY261820Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Upon taking the Senate floor, government leader Eurico Rezende rejected remarks made by Paulo Brossard, especially regarding President Ernesto Geisel's behavior.

Rezende began by stating that Brossard was setting himself up as a prophet of negativism, but that very soon he will have to find new subjects for displaying his talents instead of, as he announced, using the political institutional reform which President Geisel is going to send to Congress.

Rezende stated that the MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] leader should consider the fact that Brazil is still in the midst of a revolutionary process and that the revolution has two fundamental and inseparable characteristics, which are control and intervention. The revolution has a mission to fulfill, he said, and the time which has passed since the revolution began should not be reason for concern, despair or disbelief.

In this regard he said that all revolutionary presidents always sought harmony between the revolutionary and constitutional orders, just the opposite of what the MDB leader used to say when he was leader of the "liberating party" of the Rio Grande do Sul legislative assembly.

He recalled that Brossard proclaimed a revolution without legal limitations which, if it prevailed, would have led the country to a dictatorship. This has never occurred to the leaders of the 1964 revolution.

Regarding the process of choosing state governors, the government leader said that it was indeed since 1944 [words indistinct] being then appointed within the revolutionary characteristics which he mentioned. Therefore, he said, it is not true that the selection is done solely by the president of the republic, because he has held daily contacts with national and state ARENA [National Renewal Alliance] leaders, always trying to listen, above all, to the opinions of outstanding politicians.

Refuting Brossard's statement that the selection is made against the popular will, Rezende recalled that ARENA has a majority in Congress and in almost all state assemblies, which affirms that ARENA represents the interests of the majority of the nation.

Rejecting criticism of President Geisel, Rezende said that he has not become unworthy of being the nation's president. On the contrary, he has been recognized and approved as a statesman by the international community.

Regarding Brossard's statement that President Geisel has overshadowed Getulio Vargas (president of Brazil 1930-1945) in matters of authoritarianism, Rezende said that such statements can only be the fruit of tireless hatred. Rezende then reasserted that Brossard's goals was to damage the principle of authority, trying to create a negative image of power at the service of obscure interests. He said that this statement deserves the strongest rejection because there is no doubt that [words indistinct] and does not reveal any commitment to order because it is full of deleterious remarks which are contrary to national interests.

Regarding the statement that the country is being discredited, Rezende recalled that the results of some polls carried out in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo greatly favored the government's image.

Referring to Brossard's remarks regarding Senator Magalhaes Pinto, Rezende expressed doubts about the sincerity of the MDB leader.

REGIME REFORMS SEEN AS PLAN TO PREVENT MDB WIN IN NOVEMBER

PY261905Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1550 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 26 Apr--Deputy Tarcisio Delgado, deputy leader of the congressional opposition, asserted today that the Brazilian Government is preparing another package of political reforms intended to prevent any possibility of victory by the opposition party in the congressional elections this coming November. The MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] deputy said that even so, the opposition will overwhelmingly win the elections in most states.

AIR MINISTER WARNS MILITARY TO AVOID PARTY POLITICS

PY270135Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1556 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Recife, Brazil, 26 Apr--The Brazilian air minister, Gen Joelmir de Araripe Macedo, said here today that military intervention in the country's political process must remain aloof from party politics.

General Araripe Macedo indicated that military chiefs must avoid making political party statements because if they do they will not be able to prevent their subordinates from doing the same thing and "bringing political discussions to the barracks is the worst that can be done."

The army minister, Gen Fernando Belfort Bethlem, who is also in this northeastern Brazilian city visiting local army units, said that the situation of the country is "calm."

The army minister added: "We can never be absolutely sure because subversion is present throughout the world, as in the case of Italy with the kidnaping of Aldo Moro. We cannot say that subversion has left Brazil."

Belfort ended his remarks by emphasizing that it is necessary to remain alert because "the price of freedom is to be on guard continuously."

RADIO COMMENTARY ANALYZES CAMPAIGN ISSUES

PY260219Y Florianopolis Radio Diario da Manhã in Portuguese 1515 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY

[Text] At the beginning of their pilgrimage to the electoral grassroots, the future candidates for the November elections are troubled by two phenomena: First, they have found that liberals are ascending in the eyes of the public. This seems to have originated through political reforms, by the fact that in a speech he made 4 months ago President Geisel announced that the AI-5 will be repealed and, in general, by the intensified discussions over the possible solutions for the regime.

The fact is that there are specific signs of the increasing prestige of liberals. Electoral leaders and voters are already including political issues within the framework of their general demands. A candidate who is willing to talk only about storm sewers could end up talking to himself in many auditoriums.

The second phenomenon is perhaps more superficial than the first, but it has very distinct characteristics. The fact is that the disbanding of the two-party system has become a current issue of negotiations among political leaders, provincial politicians and community leaders. Everyone is talking about the future as if the next municipal elections were to be held in 1980 without the participation of the Brazilian Democratic Movement and the National Renewal Alliance. Therefore, interparty agreements are now being made disregarding the party loyalty law.

In its "JB Reports" column, under "First Reports," JORNAL DO BRASIL states: It is recommended that those politicians who are planning to run in the next election, and those government officials who will later be judged pursuant to the results of this election, focus their attention on these signs. These symptoms indicate that the Brazilian voters are not fools, despite the fact that they have been treated as such. They also indicate that it is a dangerous practice to make decisions on national issues without the people's participation. These signs should be considered a warning that postponing the implementation of measures which had been announced almost a year ago is taking one's own belief in the naivete of the voters too far.

BISHOPS ISSUE APPEAL FOR BROAD POLITICAL AMNESTY

PY261846Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Itaiaci, Brasil, 25 Apr--Brazilian bishops appealed to the government today to grant an extensive political amnesty.

This appeal was made in an official communique issued by the Brazilian Episcopate meeting which was held here to study the basic document of the third general assembly of the Latin American Episcopate which will be held in Puebla, Mexico, in October.

The statement issued by the Brazilian Episcopate states that this amnesty must be granted to all persons who are detained, exiled or punished for political reasons and notes that the amnesty should not be granted to common criminals.

GISCARD'S VISIT NOW SCHEDULED FOR 2-6 OCTOBER

FY270108Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] In a note released to the press today, the Foreign Ministry reports that in response to an invitation extended to them by the president of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Mrs Geisel, the president of the French Republic and Mrs Giscard d'Estaing will come to Brazil on an official visit from 2 to 6 October. Apart from Brasilia, President Giscard d'Estaing will visit Rio de Janeiro and the Amazon region.

ENERGY MINISTER UEKI RETURNS FROM TALKS IN FRANCE

FY261715Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1413 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 26 Apr--Brazilian Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki arrived here today from Paris, where he negotiated with French economic-financial authorities a \$250-million loan for the construction of the "Tucurui" hydroelectric plant in northern Brazil.

At the local airport Ueki told the press that the results of the negotiations in Caracas and Paris "were the best that could be achieved." Ueki added that he will provide more details after his meeting with President Geisel scheduled for this afternoon.

Activities in France

For reportage on the visit of Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki to France see the France section of the 25, 27 April issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

JAPAN PROVIDES \$700-MILLION LOAN FOR TUBARAO PLANT

FY261721Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 25 Apr p 15 PY

[Excerpt] A pool of Japanese banks will finance Brazil's share of the Tubarao iron and steel mill in Espirito Santo, which amounts to \$700 million. This financing will cover only those expenses incurred in Brazil, that is, without including the purchase of equipment from Japan. The term of payment of this loan will be 12 years.

This information was revealed yesterday by Dalton Estelita Lins, finance director of the Tubarao Iron and Steel Company, who returned from Tokyo on Sunday night. In Tokyo he carried out the negotiations through which this loan was obtained. He stated that the original amount was \$613 million, but this had been increased to \$700 million "at interest rates and terms of payment which Brazil is receiving on the international finance market for the first time."

NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER OFFICIALLY INSTALLED

FY241858Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Apr 78 p 20 PY

[Text] To carry out an autonomous program of research and development in search of new technological solutions in the nuclear sector is one of the objectives of the Nuclear Technology Development Center [CDTN] which will be officially installed tomorrow by NUCLEBRAS in the facilities of the former Radioactive Research Institute (IPR) in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais. [paragraph continues]

The center's activities will be aimed at the development of reactor technology and nuclear fuel cycles.

The ceremony is scheduled for Monday at 1600 and will be attended by Minas Gerais Governor Aureliano Chaves, acting Mines and Energy Minister Ney Webster de Araujo, NUCLEBRAS President Paulo Nogueira Batista and other personalities.

The creation of the CDTN is intended to make the best possible use of both personnel and material resources available in the area of technological development. It will train technical and scientific personnel for industrial, research and development activities under the Brazilian nuclear program.

The transformation of the IPR into the CDTN will make possible the development of techniques to be used in the industrial sector to assist the country's nuclear program being developed by NUCLEBRAS and its subsidiaries. The CDTN will work on reactor and nuclear fuel technology, trying to adapt to Brazil's conditions technology which is now being imported.

Details on Thorium Research Plans

PY261220Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Apr 78 p 22 PY

[Excerpts] Belo Horizonte--The Nuclear Technology Development Center [CDTN], which was inaugurated yesterday, will resume research on thorium as nuclear fuel. To this effect, NUCLEBRAS will appoint two Brazilian technicians to coordinate the directives to be followed in the future, working together with two German experts. This four-member group should meet for the first time in mid-year and it is likely that the research program will be underway before this year is out.

That information was given by NUCLEBRAS President Paulo Nogueira Batista during a press interview. He said that the group of scientists who became known as the "thorium group" worked for several years at the Radioactive Research Institute--which has now been transformed into the CDTN--and was never disbanded. He said that the group had been formed to present suggestions for a nuclear policy, as other organizations working in this area did. The final recommendation of this group was to construct a heavy water-natural uranium reactor prototype which could be converted to thorium. On its part, the Rio de Janeiro Nuclear Energy Institute (IEN) recommended the adoption of a light water-enriched uranium reactor, a recommendation which the government accepted. Studies made by the "thorium group" were important inasmuch as they brought up the idea of utilizing thorium as reactor fuel. Several former members of the "thorium group" have been invited to join the CDTN.

Batista said that this work being planned on thorium is not in fact part of the Brazilian-German nuclear agreement.

The president of NUCLEBRAS gave assurances that the creation of the CDTN in Belo Horizonte does not mean that other nuclear research groups in the country will be dismembered. Batista emphasized: "NUCLEBRAS is ready to transfer the Rio de Janeiro IEN and the Rio de Janeiro Radiation Dosimetry and Protection Institute to the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN). These transfers will put the CNEN in the position to fully discharge its responsibility for promoting fundamental research in the nuclear field. Certainly the CNEN will lead and coordinate all scientific activity in the nuclear sector."

DISMANTLING OF RIO NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER DECRIED

FY251333Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Apr 78 p 27 FY

[Excerpts] Professor Luis Pinguelli Rosa, director of the Rio de Janeiro Federal University's Institute, is quite pessimistic about the future of nuclear research in Brazil. He wonders how Brazil will be able to research the possibilities of thorium as a nuclear fuel if teams of scientists continue to be broken up, and he makes the serious charge that the Nuclear Engineering Institute [IEN] of Rio de Janeiro, which is managed by NUCLEBRAS on the university campus, is being dismantled as a result of the transfer of its laboratories and professors to bureaucratic jobs.

Physicist Rosa aired his feelings: "I cannot be optimistic when I see the IEN, where I worked for many years, being dismantled and deprived of its best researchers, particularly Professors Luis Osorio de Brito Aghina and Artur Gervasi, who sacrificed 14 years there."

Rosa pointed out that the deactivation of the Rio de Janeiro IEN, which used to work closely with the Belo Horizonte IPR [Radioactive Research Institute]--even cooperating in the thorium project it had under way--and with the Sao Paulo Atomic Energy Institute, is tantamount to setting back on the starting block a large portion of nuclear research in Rio de Janeiro after years of expenditures to get it going.

He asks: "How is it possible, at the time when Brazil is implementing its nuclear program, to undo what has been done already, taking researchers away from Rio and moving IEN labs?"

To save the IEN from extinction, Rosa believes it will be necessary to revive the agreement between the IEN and the Rio de Janeiro Federal University [UFRJ] which had been cancelled when NUCLEBRAS took over the IEN. If this is done, the IEN could be reopened to UFRJ researchers and postgraduate students in biophysics, radiochemistry, physics and nuclear engineering.

BRIEFS

FRG LOAN--Frankfurt, 17 Apr--A loan for DM150 million (\$69 million) granted to the Brazilian firm "Light Services of Electricity" [as received] will be issued at an 8-year term with an annual interest rate of 6.75 percent, it was confirmed here today. The loan will be issued by a bank consortium operated by the Westdeutsche Landesbank. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1530 GMT 17 Apr 78 FY]

REPORTER SEIZED--Brazilia, 19 Apr--The Brazilian Press Association today protested the recent seizure of 60,000 copies of the monthly publication REPORTER and the indictment of its editors under the national security law. Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] Senator Marcos Freire termed this action evidence of police arbitrariness and MDB Deputy Sebastiao Rodriguez said that this shows that there is no freedom of the press in Brazil. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1655 GMT 19 Apr 78 FY]

MENDOZA SPEAKS ON NATION'S POLITICAL FUTURE

Cautions on Transferring Power

PY261491Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0309 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 25 Apr--Gen Cesar Mendoza, commander of carabineros, stated today that it is still too early to talk about the eventual dissolution of the government military junta. The high-ranking officer noted that "the junta must not be dissolved since all stages of the national reconstruction process have not been completed."

General Mendoza, who is a member of the military junta, noted that "we must first think about the security of the country in order to achieve complete normalization." He acknowledged that while "we are certainly achieving the goals we have established we must first think of national tranquillity before ending the national normalization process."

Asked whether it is convenient for the junta to transfer power to civilians, he noted: "We believe this is not convenient for the country. The present conditions are not completely favorable for this transfer."

Warns of Civil War

PY261552Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1449 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 26 Apr--Chilean junta member Cesar Mendoza stated here today that he opposed the dissolution of the government junta "because it would cause a civil war." General Mendoza, who is commander of the carabineros (militarized police), made this statement to the Chilean magazine HOY.

Mendoza stated that if the military junta were dissolved and its four members resigned, "this would be followed by disorder and a struggle for power which necessarily would end in a civil war, something which we have a duty to prevent." Gen Gustavo Leigh, commander of the Chilean Air Force, recently noted that "a possible solution for ending the international boycott against Chile would be the resignation of the four members of the military junta and its replacement by new people."

General Mendoza asked the weekly in this regard: "Who can assert that these new people can be found to take power? That is the question." Later he noted to the interviewing journalist: "Suppose this 4th, or 6th, or 10th (man) had aspirations or made commitments to some national or foreign political entity? This is what we should avoid."

Amnesty Not Feared

PY261556Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Carabineros Commander Cesar Mendoza has noted that the forces under his command will continue the specific job of safeguarding tranquillity and combatting crime, particularly in the new stage resulting from the new measures adopted by high-ranking government officials.

General Mendoza said that the carabineros do not fear that as a result of the amnesty which has been declared by the government there will be a resurgence of social disruptions.

The general added, however: We are greatly concerned about this and this is precisely our mission--that is, preventing any crime, particularly any which could harm people and disrupt national peace.

He noted: This anniversary of the carabineros finds the institution struggling to develop in accordance with the society in which we work and which we serve, by adapting our actions to the actions and activities of a modern society.

POLICE DISPERSE PROTEST BY MISSING PERSONS' KIN

PY270124Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2046 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 26 Apr--Police today dispersed a street demonstration and arrested 16 persons, relatives of Chileans who are allegedly missing.

Witnesses of the incident said that approximately 100 persons, mostly women, gathered in the downtown Plaza de Armas, exhibiting signs requesting an official answer on the situation of their relatives.

Members of the carabineros (military police) came to the site, broke up the crowd and arrested 14 women and 2 men.

According to officials, all were released after remaining almost an hour at the police station.

The organization to which these people belong stated that there are 500 missing persons, arrested during the state of siege in Chile which lasted 4 and 1/2 years.

Before the street demonstration they announced their desire to ask for a meeting with the new interior minister, Sergio Fernandez, to get an official answer.

INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL CRITICIZES COMMUNIST ON AMNESTY

PY261625Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Commander Enrique Montero, Interior Ministry under secretary, has criticized the fact that Gladys Marin, former secretary general of the outlawed Communist Party youth movement and former Chilean deputy, is using international news agencies to request the necessary authorization to return to the country. Gladys Marin left Chile after she requested asylum in an embassy.

Montero reiterated that the request to return to Chile of those persons who left the country for one reason or another should be submitted at Chilean embassies or consulates and that the Interior Ministry will decide whether requests are to be accepted, after studying each individual case.

PCCH SECRETARY GENERAL CORVALAN VISITS VIETNAM

For Vietnamese media reportage on the visit of Luis Corvalan, secretary general of the Chilean Communist Party, [PCCh], see the Vietnam section of the 26 April and subsequent issues of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

EL SIGLO COLUMBIAN DISPARAGES CARTER'S LEADERSHIP

PAC-1951Y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Apr 78 p 4 PA

["A Traves del Espejo" column by Juan Diego Jaramillo: "There Is No Leadership"]

[Text] Never has a presidency shown such rapid deterioration as Carter's. His characteristics have included weakness and indecisiveness at a time when a defeated [vencida] public opinion in North America was possibly determined to react. A country accepts humiliation up to a certain point, but when the nation's objective capabilities are counterposed to the spirit of defeat, that nation takes the road upward, overcoming any obstacles. In this case, it appears that the United States will overcome Carter and his little group of advisers from Georgia, whom the nation has come to understand as being better suited to filming beer advertisements in a southern granary than to directing the destiny of the Free World.

Of course, Carter still has the major part of his term to serve, and since the U.S. political establishment has a great capacity for recovery, it is possible that in the coming years the peanut grower will become, as most U.S. presidents do, the most cherished symbol of the country. I do not dismiss this possibility, but I feel the Free World may become undermined during the time it takes to make this change. And the change must be made. Perhaps the clumsy handling of the neutron bomb question will show that things are not going well at present. Or maybe there has to be a bloody and fatal civil war in Rhodesia for Mr Brown [as published] to be replaced in the United Nations. Or maybe the world will have to enter an industrial recession impoverishing many countries while international trade falls as a result of protectionism. This may all happen.

The world is headed toward a break in the peaceful standards of coexistence and joint progress. This break is not unavoidable, but the factors producing it may be too far advanced to be easily reversed any longer. U.S. leadership is very important, so much so that Carter was very well received throughout the world, even though he created a painful division in his own country because he was surrounded by a spiritual energy which promised to have a soothing effect.

What followed was in contradiction to the initial image: The spiritual force was dispersed hesitantly and sporadically so that the White House spokesman became accustomed to telling the press every afternoon: "What the President said was not what he meant. What he meant was this...." "The President has been misinterpreted. He really referred to...." "President Carter wants to be more explicit on this point because he has the impression that the press did not understand him." "The President feels that Mr Young's statements do not coincide fully with the administration's central idea...." And in this way leadership has been weakened; and also the world's confidence.

INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT MEMBERS SENTENCED TO PRISON

PY251725Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 22 Apr 78 p 29 PY

[Summary] Judge Bernabe Valdez Martinez of the Fifth Criminal Court yesterday handed down the final sentences against Juan Felix Bogado Gondra and others found guilty of violating Law No 209 on defense of public peace and freedom of the individual. Juan Felix Bogado Gondra was sentenced to 2 years in prison while Jorge Humberto Canesse, Jose Nicolas Morinigo Alcaraz, Antonio Valenzuela Candia, Eduardo Arce Shaerer and Francisco Oscar Rodriguez Campuzano were given 1-year sentences. All of them are Paraguayans.

In his written ruling the judge indicated that the trial grew out of a police report on action taken against these persons in view of the illegal activities they were carrying out.

"The police report includes evidence given by Juan Manuel Marcos Alvarez, who very clearly said that over a period of months he had been visited and spoken to by Juan Felix Bogado Gondra, Jorge Humberto Canesse, Ricardo Ramon Canesse and Julio Cesar Barreto Monzon, who invited him to join the Paraguayan Communist Party and told him that his position as a teacher at the Catholic University was a favorable entry point to the party. The police investigation turned up evidence which confirmed Marcos Alvarez's statement and the fact that all those involved in this trial are, in one way or another, linked with the Independent Movement, which was very active among university students. Once it was consolidated in the student sector its objective was to create a mass movement on an ideological basis, then turn it into a popular and Marxist movement and, as a finishing touch, create a political party based on ideas of a leftist nature."

Those involved did not deny belonging to the Independent Movement, which is illegal in our country. When interrogated, those involved denied having links with or belonging to the Communist Party. During the trial the charges against those involved were not disproved.

ITAIPU GENERAL DIRECTOR DENIES EARTHQUAKE THREAT

PY221522Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Apr 78 p 10 PY

[Excerpts] During a conversation with Itaipu Binational General Director Enzo Debernardi in his office in the National Power Administration (ANDE), the high official said that the possibility of secondary reactions from dam reservoirs "is a controversial matter on which science and technology have not agreed."

Debernardi also indicated to this newspaper last night that the theories on this matter "are contradictory. There is no certainty and it has not been proven that dams create earthquakes."

The ANDE director explained that "if this occurs it will be micromovements, but neither is this certain."

He was certain, however, when he said that in the case of Itaipu "we must not expect earthquakes in the strict sense of the word," and that all of these technical aspects have been considered. Therefore, there is no reason for alarm.

EXTREME LEFT PARTIES DEPRIVED OF FREE RADIO, TELEVISION TIME

PA261210Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0212 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 25 Apr (AFP)--The extreme left parties--Popular Democratic Union (UDP) and Popular Student, Peasant and Worker Front (FOCEP)--were both deprived tonight of the free use of radio and television time.

The special commission for electoral propaganda adopted this measure stating that both movements "have abused the ethics of criticism and the purpose of electoral propaganda, resulting in extremism that does not promote the necessary unity of the Peruvian people."

The commission recalled that on 10 April it asked the 12 parties that are to participate in the June constituent elections to use in accordance with the law the radio and television times freely allotted them by the state to expound their views on the new constitution.

According to the commission, UDP and FOCEP "have shown that they do not know how to constructively use the forum offered to them....By their attitude they have disqualified themselves from further free use of those media."

Victor Cuadros and Ricardo Diaz are among UDP's candidates to the constituent assembly. Genaro Ledesma, Hugo Blanco and Manuel Scorza are included in FOCEP's list.

MAJORITY OF WORKERS DO NOT SUPPORT STRIKE

PY251900Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The main mines and metalworkers labor unions of the country have not obeyed 48-hour nationwide strike ordered by the Peruvian Federation of Mineworkers. According to reports from the production centers in question, the workers of Centromin-Peru, Toquepala, Ilo (Limpo), Chapi, (Gualpala), (Patini), (Catacocha), Guaron, Cerro Verde and other areas of importance have not discontinued operations.

The majority of the workers refused to obey the order to strike issued by a politicized leadership whose goal is to paralyze a key sector of our economy for reasons other than labor issues.

Thousands of workers thus echoed the calls for harmony and labor peace made by Labor Minister Jose Garcia Calderon. In the midst of this example of responsibility and understanding for the economic and financial difficulties of the country, only one large mine and few small ones discontinued their work yesterday.

Such was the case at the Hierro-Peru Labor Union, the [name indistinct] mining company of Morococha, and the [name indistinct] mining company. The leaders of these unions managed to enforce the strike without regard for the supreme interests of the fatherland and their own interests. According to an official of the Labor Ministry the striking workers will receive a deduction in their salaries in line with the regulations which establish this punishment for not working 2 successive days.

The National Mineworkers Federation justified the strike on the basis of several nonlabor matters and other demands which are currently being studied by the appropriate officials.

CARTER VISIT NOT OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED YET

PA262250Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2134 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 26 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Commenting on reports that President Jimmy Carter would meet here in Panama with other Latin American leaders, a Panamanian Foreign Ministry spokesman today told this agency that President Jimmy Carter's visit to this country has not even been officially confirmed.

Chief of Government Omar Torrijos recently announced publicly that the U.S. President and several of the senators who voted in favor of the new canal treaties would arrive on 12 May for a stay of 48 hours.

The White House, nonetheless, announced on the same day that although a Carter trip to Panama is currently being considered, no final date has been set yet.

Now the Panamanian Foreign Ministry has confirmed that apparently complicated efforts are being made in connection with the U.S. President's visit, who has been extended an invitation. Regarding the rumor that Carter and General Torrijos would be meeting here with other chiefs of state, the official spokesman said that there is such a possibility but that nothing has been definitely decided yet.

The rumors specifically concerned the arrival here of the presidents of Colombia, Venezuela and Costa Rica, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Carlos Andres Perez and Daniel Oduber, respectively.

U.S. OFFICIALS OPPOSE CARTER TRIP TO PANAMA

PA261215Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Apr 78 PA

[Text] President Jimmy Carter will come to Panama in May in spite of advice to the contrary from White House and State Department officials who have warned him against what they have called a threatening attitude by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos.

The officials opposed to Carter's visit to Panama claim that General Torrijos expressed a belligerent attitude when he said on the night of the treaties' ratification that if they had been rejected by the U.S. Senate a liberation war would have broken out immediately and that possibly the canal would have been inoperative by now.

A U.S. official closely connected to Panamanian and hemispheric affairs said that Carter will project a poor image if he goes to Panama. These same officials had considered the presidential trip as a logical conclusion to the treaties' approval and as the beginning of a harmonious partnership between the two nations.

The exchange of the ratification instruments, say those who now oppose the trip, can be carried out without the trappings of a presidential meeting. The treaties in themselves, they said, will not go into effect until 1 October 1979. Carter's advisers also fear the negative impact which the interview with Torrijos would have on the Democratic candidates for Congress in the November elections. Others have said that Carter's arrival in Panama could cause protest demonstrations by Panamanian leftists as well as by the U.S. citizens working and living in the Canal Zone who opposed the treaties and who now feel betrayed by their own government.

U.S. Ambassador to Panama William Jorden flew to Washington on Monday with the apparent intention of giving his opinion on Carter's proposed trip. This matter was discussed during a meeting of White House officials last Friday presided over by presidential aide Hamilton Jordan.

STUDENTS PROTEST PROPOSED VISIT BY PRESIDENT CARTER

PA261537Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1507 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 26 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Dozens of students protested here Tuesday evening against the visit U.S. President Jimmy Carter will make to Panama.

The U.S. President will probably visit Panama on 12 May to exchange with Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos the canal treaties recently ratified by the U.S. Senate.

The demonstrators asked the government to call for a new plebiscite since, according to them, the Torrijos-Carter treaties ratified here on 23 October of last year were "destroyed" by the amendments and reservations made by the U.S. Senate and are not what they were initially.

Gen Omar Torrijos said on 18 April, following the announcement of the ratification of the treaties by the U.S. Senate, that there was no need for a plebiscite. During the demonstration, which was held peacefully at Santa Ana Park located in the capital's old section, there were requests for a general amnesty for all political exiles.

Groups of political exiles who have taken advantage of General Torrijos' promise to allow the unconditional return of all exiles to the fatherland have been arriving in Panama since Monday. The chief of government announced the measure favoring the exiles minutes after the U.S. Senate ratified the Torrijos-Carter treaties on 18 April.

NO DATE SET FOR ARNULFO ARIAS RETURN TO PANAMA

PA261230Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Apr 78 PA

[Text] A person closely linked to the Panamenist Party told Televisora Nacional this morning that no date has been set yet for Dr Arnulfo Arias' return to Panama, nor has the place through which he will enter the country been determined. Our station was informed that a proposal for Arias to arrive through Paso Canoas was made by the Chiriqui delegation during a Panamenist meeting last Sunday. This proposal was transmitted to former President Arias, who said he would consider it. Arias also asked that a party commission go to Miami in order to arrive at a final decision on his return to Panama.

Panamenist Party directors in Panama City are preparing to leave for the United States in order to convince former President Arias to return to the country in response to the government's decision to allow the return of all political exiles.

CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS

HONDURAN, SALVADORAN HEADS OF STATE POSTPONE MEETING

PA251714Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 25 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The heads of state of Honduras and El Salvador have postponed their meeting, which should have been held this week to discuss the state of the peace negotiations, until May. The reason was Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro's trip to the United States last Sunday.

BELIZE

PRIME MINISTER SEEKS EARLY INDEPENDENCE

FL261830Y Belize City REPORTER in English 23 Apr 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Reliable reports from Belmopan say the premier, Mr Price, is planning to lead a delegation of ministers to London to demand early independence for Belize.

This time the deputy premier, Mr Rogers, will accompany the delegation and another minister will be chosen, possibly Perdomo, to act as premier.

The new thinking of the PUP [People's United Party] is that there should be an end to discussions with the Guatemalans and that Belize should now proceed to take her independence, even if this action results in hostilities with the Guatemalans.

Sign defence pact?

Unconfirmed reports say that three countries of the Caribbean have signed a secret pact with Belize to come to this country's defence if ever it is threatened with invasion from Guatemala.

The pact was signed, reports say, in Belmopan last Sunday. Those signing are said to include Mr Henry Ford, foreign minister of Barbados; Minister Frank Campbell of Guyana and Minister Derek Heaven of Jamaica, all of whom were in Belize for the 3rd annual meeting of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee which ended on Tuesday.

PREMIER PRICE LEAVES FOR MEXICO

FL270154Y Belize City Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The premier left Belize by air today for Mexico. During his absence, the deputy premier, the Honorable C.L.B. Rogers, will be acting premier.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RETURNS FROM MEXICO VISIT

FL270217Y Belize City Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 78 FL

[Excerpts] The Honorable Assad Shoman, attorney general and minister of state, has concluded a 2-day visit to Quintana Roo State in Mexico. He was accompanied by San Ignacio Mayor Armando (Salido), adviser [name indistinct] and Mr (Emmett Bradley).

The visit helped to expand the positive relations with Mexico, especially between Chetumal and San Ignacio.

COSTA RICA

AUTHORITIES RELEASE U.S., CANADIAN FISHING BOATS

PA270108Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The case of the tuna fishing boats was resolved in court and I will gladly explain to the Legislative Assembly what happened if it calls me, Foreign Relations Minister Gonzalo Facio said. Furthermore, he said, the fishermen's best friend is the person who stands up for what is right. He said this in response to a question concerning the consequences and reasons for allowing the tuna fishing boats to go free. [begin Facio recording]

I know nothing about a summons from the Legislative Assembly. However, I will gladly go to the assembly if I am asked. Now, with regard to the fishing boats, there is little to be said. The court in Santa Cruz, Guanacaste, ruled that the boats could go once it was proved that they were not in Costa Rican territorial waters. They were about 17 miles off our coasts. As you know, our territorial waters comprise a strip of water 12 miles wide running parallel to our coasts. That is why the boats were allowed to go free. [end recording]

HONDURAS

ARMED FORCES ISSUES COMMUNIQUE DENYING ACCUSATIONS

PA261435Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Honduran Armed Forces communique No 43 issued on 25 April--read by announcer--SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Armed Forces staff, aware of its responsibility to the Honduran people in general, states that it is the first to regret the incidents in which members of the Armed Forces have been involved directly or indirectly. These incidents, which various news media have given wide publicity, are harmful to the nation's image and to the Armed Forces' prestige.

At no time has the Armed Forces' chief received or issued documents or material that prove or give evidence that members of the Armed Forces have been involved in these types of activities. The only thing available is the confession of those involved, and it lacks sufficient merit for the Armed Forces staff to open an investigation on the conduct of high-ranking officers of the institution.

Despite the unsubstantiated and vague accusations made public by Police Lt Juan Angel Barahona, chief of the International Police [Interpol] in Honduras, against members of the Armed Forces--whose names he did not give, but against whom he claims he has conclusive evidence that they have violated the law--a high-level commission has been appointed to definitely establish the truth.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES

Mengistu Tours Air Brigade

FL261330Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro have visited the air brigade of the Playa Giron guard. The distinguished visitor and the delegation accompanying him were welcomed by Army Gen Raul Castro, PCC second secretary and Revolutionary Armed Forces minister, and Division Gen Francisco Cabrera, Central Committee alternate member and vice minister-chief of the Revolutionary Air Force and Antiaircraft Defense--DAAFAR.

After Lt Col (Eddy Hernandez Capote) made his report, Mengistu and Fidel greeted the air brigade's general staff and the internationalist combatants. Then Mengistu, accompanied by Fidel, Raul and the delegation accompanying the Ethiopian leader, visited the unit's military history hall, the aviation museum and toured the brigade's installations. The visitors watched an air exercise demonstrating the capabilities and combat readiness of our air force. After the military exercise was over, Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam congratulated the pilots who participated in the exercise and stated:

[begin Mengistu recording in Amharic with simultaneous Spanish translation] We have seen the Cuban Air Force, not only in this demonstration, but also seen in reality in action. The pride of the Cuban people is not only your own but also that of the Ethiopian people. Everyone is proud of you. On behalf of the Ethiopian delegation, we thank you in the name of our whole people and in my own name and in the name of the delegation accompanying me for the magnificent demonstration you have shown us. Cuba will always be proud of its sons. The Ethiopian people and air force will always be by your side. You will always be with us and you will comply with all the internationalist missions that are necessary. [end recording]

After the visit to the air brigade of the Playa Giron guard, Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, accompanied by Army Gen Raul Castro and the rest of the Ethiopian delegation, went to the Gen Antonio Maceo combined arms school. At this military training center Col (Jose Palacios Suarez), director of the center, made his report to the illustrious visitor. After shaking hands with school's leadership, Mengistu was extensively briefed on the school's organization, structure and study program.

The governmental delegation from the fraternal Ethiopian nation made an extensive tour of the military training center's classrooms and the other installations. The visitors were impressed with the exercises that took place on the training grounds against the incendiary weapons and tanks. During their extensive tour of the Gen Antonio Maceo combined arms school, Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam was given a complete briefing on the activities carried out there.

At the end of the visit to the study center, Mengistu was presented with a bust of Gen Antonio Maceo. He expressed his thanks and wrote his impressions of the visit in the honor book: The Ethiopian delegation feels great pride and happiness after having visited socialist Cuba's Gen Antonio Maceo school of combined arms.

Official Visits CDR Committee

FL261604Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1505 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Orestes Carballo report]

[Text] A member of the Ethiopian delegation accompanying Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] of Ethiopia, last night visited a Committee for the Defense of the Revolution--CDR--neighborhood committee. It was Ato Tesfaye Mekonnen, secretary general of the political office for mass organizations affairs, who was accompanied by Jorge Lezcano Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee, Council of State and CDR national coordinator.

They visited the CDR No 5, (Tamara Bunque) of Zone 13 in Plaza de la Revolucion municipality, where Chairman (Andrea Fellaz) and other members of the executive explained the operations of the CDR in the neighborhood. CDR Provincial Coordinator Antonio Argamasilla presented him with an outstanding CDR member award and Antonio Gell Noa of the CDR National Secretariat greeted the visitor in the name of the 5 million CDR members.

Foreign Minister Visits Institute

FL261800Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1713 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopian Foreign Minister Feleke Gedle-Giorgis has visited the Cuban Higher Institute of Foreign Service accompanied by Aemero Wondimagegnehu, ambassador of that fraternal country to our nation. The Ethiopian foreign minister was received by Rene Anillo Capote, interim foreign minister, and Antonio Diaz, director of the Higher Institute of Foreign Service. They then had an extensive exchange on the activities of the institute in the formation of cadres for foreign affairs work. The foreign minister met with the students and briefed them on the situation in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian foreign minister delivered books on Africa to the institute's library, stating that this is only the start of donations which will take place later.

Perez Herrero Meets Tamerat Ferede

FL261844Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Text] A meeting was held last night between Antonio Perez Herrero, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, and 2d Lt Tamerat Ferede, socialist Ethiopia's Provisional Military Administrative Council standing committee member in charge of information. During the meeting, which took place in the fraternal atmosphere that characterizes relations between the two countries, they exchanged viewpoints on party work done in the ideological sphere and especially in information and propaganda.

Text of Castro Rally Speech

FL262207Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2105 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Speech by Cuban President and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at public friendship rally in honor of Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam and his delegation at Havana's Plaza de Revolucion--live]

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, comrades of the Ethiopian delegation, comrades compatriots: Today we are attending a historic event--the meeting of our people with the great revolutionary Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam and the delegation he heads. [applause]

Ethiopia has been an independent state for thousands of years. In the last century, when all the countries of Africa without exception were occupied by European colonial powers, the Ethiopian people, through strength and the traditions of struggle and heroism, remained independent.

The Italians were severely defeated by the Ethiopians in 1896. Dozens of years later, in 1935, the fascist Italian troops of Benito Mussolini left Somalia and the region they were occupying in the northern part of the country known as Eritrea and invaded Ethiopia with the most modern weapons. They took over all its territory following a hard and fierce resistance which did not stop for an instant throughout the occupation, which lasted only 5 years. When, after World War II, the African countries, one by one, liberated themselves from colonialism and many initiated a progressive path, Ethiopia remained an absolutely feudal state in which even slavery officially existed.

The Ethiopian revolution was not organized or directed by a political party or organization. There was so much injustice, oppression, poverty and hunger that one day the country exploded. In this sense, the facts and circumstances are very reminiscent of the French Revolution of 1789.

The monarchy was abolished. Slavery was radically suppressed and feudalism and its production relations were literally swept away from the country's scene.

As the country was completely underdeveloped, the working class was not too large. Most of the population--about 90 percent--was composed of peasants.

Naturally enough, the revolution also exploded within the army. Young junior officers, sergeants and soldiers swept away the feudalistic senior officers and took command. The absence of a political organization of a national scope determined their decisive role in leading the process.

Ethiopia is a country composed of numerous ethnic groups which speak different languages and of regions with various national characteristics. More than a few problems were inherited from the feudal regime. Poverty and hunger had reached the extreme. Oppression by the feudal government had generated broad discontent and secessionist movements.

To the inherited problems were added new ones. Everywhere the feudal elements, deposed from power, and the senior officers from the old regime repelled. And to this had to be added a fundamental fact: Feudal Ethiopia was imperialism's firmest ally on the African Continent. As expected, in alliance with the revolutionary countries of the region, the latter immediately began to maneuver against the Ethiopian revolution, stimulating secessionism and the territorial ambitions of the Somalis. The Somali state was considered to be among the progressive countries, and even socialism was advocated as an objective. Actually, as facts have demonstrated, the prevailing ideology among its leaders was chauvinism. The insane idea of a greater Somalia dragged them into the imperialist camp, thinking that the great opportunity had arrived for realizing it by crushing the Ethiopian revolution and, at that price, taking over a third of its territory with the approval and applause of the United States, NATO and the reactionary countries of the Middle East. Siad Barre himself declared that he opportunistically communicated to the U.S. Government his intention of invading Ethiopia.

The Somali aggression, with numerous well-armed forces, became an extraordinary threat to the integrity, revolution and the very existence of Ethiopia. Without the most resolute international support, the revolution could have been crushed.

When Cuban combatants left for Ethiopia to support its people in the just struggle against foreign aggression [applause], the governments of the United States and the NATO countries, which had not said a word during the long months as the Somali invasion developed, reacted angrily against Cuba's noble and solidarity action in helping a nation which is among the world's poorest and most suffering. In talking with some North American visitors, I told them: What would your government's attitude be if Mexico invaded you, claiming by force the return of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and other territories which you grabbed from them by force in the last century and where 10 million Mexicans live? [applause] Well, then, Mexico has much more right to do that than Siad Barre has to claim the Ogaden territory, which has been part of Ethiopia for hundreds of years and has never belonged to Somalia. [applause]

In the same way, Yankee imperialism questions Ethiopia's right to defend its territorial integrity and its unity against the Eritrean secessionists. The United States itself had a bitter historic experience with secessionism when the southern slaveowners tried to secede from the Union in the second half of the past century. A true pacifist, noble and of high stature, Lincoln was forced to resort to arms to prevent it. [applause] Now they want to deny Ethiopia the right to defend the country's integrity.

Cuba decidedly favors the existence of peace between Ethiopia and all neighboring states, based on respect for the integrity of each nation and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs. [applause] Ethiopia does not claim the territory of any other state. Ethiopia also needs internal peace. Cuba is, therefore, also an advocate of just political solutions, based on Leninist principles, to the problem of nationalities within a revolutionary Ethiopian state which preserves as an irrevocable right its unity, its absolute integrity and sovereignty. [applause]

Following the defeat of the aggressors' attempt against the Ogaden, imperialism and its reactionary allies madly demanded the immediate withdrawal of Cuban combatants from Ethiopia. Anyone can understand that this also means the immediate initiation of new acts of aggression. We, as a matter of principle, emphatically refuse to discuss this point with the United States [prolonged applause] and any other point concerning Cuba's solidarity with the just struggles of the peoples of Africa.

Would the United States discuss with us the presence of their military units in scores of countries of the world? Cuban military personnel will be in Ethiopia for whatever time is agreed on [prolonged applause] by the Ethiopian and Cuban governments to support the Ethiopian people against any foreign aggression. [applause] Therefore, it should be very clear that our combatants will not remain with arms folded if there is a new invasion of Ethiopia. [prolonged applause]

We will also cooperate broadly with Ethiopia in the civilian field. A large contingent of Cuban doctors and health personnel is already there, and we will do the same in other areas. [applause]

What did imperialism and its ally, the feudal regime, leave in Ethiopia? Some 150,000 lepers, 400,000 suffering from tuberculosis, 6 million with malaria, 14 million people with various degrees of eye infections, hundreds of thousands of human beings who died of starvation during droughts, 95 percent illiteracy, just to cite some examples. These terrifying figures speak by themselves of the meaning of imperialism for the peoples of the so-called Third World.

I do not want to speak too long because we must hear Mengistu's speech in Amharic and Spanish. [applause] I do want to point out that we have great confidence in Comrade Mengistu because of his revolutionary clarity, his character, his boldness and his courage. [prolonged applause] Mengistu is, above all, an honest and revolutionary man. [applause] Mengistu is a firm standard bearer of Marxism-Leninism. [applause]

Martí said that men do not make nations but that, under certain circumstances, nations are expressed in a man. Mengistu is the fundamental link between the Cuban revolution and the Ethiopian revolution. [applause] In the current phase of the revolutionary process, all his authority, courage, intelligence and leadership ability are necessary to lead the Ethiopian revolution on the hard and difficult path ahead.

With this mass event today, our people and our party express to him their unlimited confidence and their deepest solidarity. [prolonged applause] Fatherland or death, we shall win! [shouts of "Venceremos," prolonged applause]

Mengistu's Reply Speech

PA270020Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2133 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, prime minister and chairman of Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council, at friendship rally in Plaza de la Revolución, Havana, in Amharic with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish--live]

[Text] Down with imperialism! Down with capitalism! Down with colonialism!

Dear Comrade Fidel Castro, dear people of Havana and revolutionary people of Cuba: I have been charged with the task by the revolutionary masses, progressive forces and the Provisional Military Administrative Council of socialist Ethiopia--an East African country with a lengthy history--who at present are involved in a decisive struggle to break the exploitative chains of imperialism, to extend their revolutionary greetings and their internationalist solidarity to the brave and revolutionary people of Cuba, who have sent their brave sons thousands of kilometers across the seas to fight at the side of the Ethiopian people. [applause]

My comrades and I are pleased that we are able to be here in the year of the 11th [youth and students] festival and the 25th anniversary of the glorious attack on the Moncada barracks, which initiated the Cuban revolution. [applause] We are happy to come here to pay tribute to and express our profound admiration for the revolutionary people of Cuba, the Communist Party of Cuba, and the wisdom and revolutionary internationalism of Comrade Fidel Castro. [applause]

We feel extremely happy to be in Cuba, a country which, having lighted the flame of revolution on this continent, continues to reflect the essence of that revolution in Latin America and other continents. Our presence here has given us the opportunity to witness the epic struggle embarked upon by the people of Cuba and their leader. [applause]

It is not only recently that the fighting sons of Ethiopia have come to Cuba. Ethiopian revolutionaries have closely followed the progress of the Cuban revolution. In their struggle today to consolidate the complete rights of the Ethiopian masses, Ethiopian revolutionaries use the experiences of the Cuban revolution to carry forward their struggle.

What experience has the present Ethiopian generation gained from the struggle of the Cuban people? I cannot be so impudent as to try to give a lesson to the Cuban people regarding their own revolutionary history. However, it is instructive to refer to certain events to show the similarity that exists between the revolutionary struggles of Ethiopia and Cuba.

The Cuban people did not choose the path of revolution simply because of their interest in being revolutionary. They were also forced to rise against the oppression and injustice that existed for a long time before the revolution. The Cuban people were exploited and lived under the yoke of Spanish colonialism--characterized by ignorance, disease and starvation--and they rebelled against this unjust system.

The decisive role played by the Cuban peasants, artisans and slaves, as well as by the young students and the intellectuals, during the liberation war that began in 1868 and the hard struggle that continued for 10 years against the Cuban people's enemies cannot be forgotten. Gomez and Maceo, who were present in the first line of combat, will always be remembered. [applause] As a result of their struggle, slavery was abolished in Cuba, the last country in this hemisphere to achieve this. But since the Cuban people's objectives were broader, the struggle continued.

Using the experience obtained in past struggles, the indomitable Cuban people created a strong political movement in 1895. Gathering under the flag of the party led by Jose Marti, a revolutionary of great vision, the peasants, the artisans and the intellectuals fought for their independence. As a result of this intense struggle by Cuba's oppressed masses, the Spanish colonialists were defeated after a long period of struggle. Nonetheless, the Cuban people's victory was soon brought to naught by an interventionist war waged by U.S. imperialism.

Cuba, Puerto Rico and several other countries fell victim to these antipopular forces. Having realized that there was no alternative but to continue the struggle against the reactionary imperialism that opposed freedom, the Cuban peasants did not manage to become owners of the land for which they had fought for so long. As a result the peasants, as well as the other classes of society to which rights were still being denied, intensified their struggle. The proletariat, which had emerged as a result of capitalist development, joined in the struggle and gave it an international dimension.

Comrade Fidel Castro, as I previously said there is a reason why I have tried to refer to the Cuban people's determined actions. The masses' progress toward victory may exhibit small differences in form but it also shows important essential similarities. The masses' wishes are identical, wherever they may be. All of them want to achieve independence, establish democracy, build socialism and abolish exploitation of man by man. [applause]

Allow me once again to return to the Cuban people's struggle, a struggle that has become a living model for all oppressed masses determined to break the chains of imperialist exploitation.

Progressive Ethiopians know perfectly well that Cuban revolutionaries have been guided for a long time by the beacon of Marxism-Leninism, a tested instrument of struggle for oppressed masses. [applause] Not long after the socialist revolution occurred in Russia in October 1917, establishing proletarian dictatorship in that country, a Marxist-Leninist party was created in Cuba in 1925. This party was led by Balino and Mella, who remained in the first line of struggle. [applause]

This has been recorded in the struggles of the oppressed masses. In the '30's, capitalism was characterized by continuous crisis. Its ugly face was fully revealed when, in order to get out of that tight corner, it became involved in inhumane acts, as manifested in the form of fascism.

When the struggle for liberation of the Cuban masses intensified during that period, the Cuban people were made the victims of the antipopular capitalist system. The people of Cuba, with their rich experience of struggle, nevertheless were not defeated [peando] by it. In fact, when the Spanish Republic--a former colonial power in which peace-loving people had taken power at that time--was invaded by the fascist forces in 1936, the Cuban people, in compliance with their internationalist duty, mobilized by the communists and in cooperation with communists in other countries, fought against the fascist invaders. [applause] No less than 1,000 Cubans fought as members of the International Brigade. The sacrifices made by these sons and daughters of Cuba for the cause of peace and the welfare of humanity constitute a brilliant chapter in the history of the struggles of the oppressed masses. It will forever illuminate the conscience of generations to come. [applause]

The Cuban people have never stopped working to insure their independence and comply with their internationalist duty. However, when they were obliged to fight against a formidable enemy, it was not easy for them to destroy the system of oppression and exploitation. Nevertheless, the strength of the enemy was not enough to make the Cuban people desist from their struggle or prevent the accumulated oppression from causing the inevitable explosion.

The first shot fired on 26 July 1953 at the Moncada barracks against the regime of Batista, the puppet of the United States, announced the inevitable victory of Comrade Fidel Castro and the other brave sons of Cuba. [applause] Revolution being a process characterized by ups and downs, the fight launched by the revolutionary leader, Comrade Fidel Castro, and his comrades in arms did not easily achieve the desired objectives. The revolutionaries who took up arms against the enemies of their people were condemned to exile and suffering. In the best revolutionary tradition, however, they were never discouraged, nor did they abandon the struggle.

Leading a group of distinguished revolutionaries such as Che Guevara, who is known to all the patriots who fight for liberty throughout the world [prolonged applause], and after a long journey in the historic yacht Granma, Comrade Fidel Castro arrived in the Sierra Maestra Mountains where the armed struggle began in 1956. In Oriente Province, far from the capital, in the valleys and mountains of the eastern province, the revolutionaries, along with the people of the area, waged a long and harsh struggle against the reactionary Batista army. The triumphant arrival of the revolutionaries in Santiago, Cuba, on 1 January is an unforgettable event which will always be remembered by all peoples of the world. [applause]

Having won this decisive struggle between the exploiter and the exploited, the oppressor and the oppressed, the Cuban people built the first socialist state of America. [applause] But the path to victory had not been easy. It was at the end of no less than 92 years of harsh struggle that the Cuban national flag, the symbol of the freedom of the Cuban people, could wave, in true freedom, over this revolutionary land where the brave revolutionary sons and daughters sacrificed their lives. [applause]

When Comrade Fidel Castro and his comrades in arms entered Santiago on 1 January 1959, he, who had attacked with the fire of the class struggle, described how bitter the struggle had been in the following words: We have finally reached Santiago. The road was long and difficult, but we made it. [applause]

Comrade Fidel Castro, when we ask ourselves what were the benefits of the great sacrifices that were made and the high price that the Cuban people paid in blood and sweat in those long and difficult years--years of suffering--we received stimulating answers which serve as a source of inspiration for the forces which are struggling throughout the world. The world's revolutionaries realize that, as a result of the victory achieved in 1959, the Cuban revolution increased in depth, intensity and clarity, and it has achieved rapid transformations. Consequently, it has now advanced to a new historic phase. The workers, peasants, progressive petty bourgeoisie, as well as other oppressed classes of the Cuban society, used their hands to destroy the oppressive apparatus of U.S. imperialism and to build a democratic and anti-imperialist Cuba.

Your achievements in the construction of a socialist society, particularly the progress achieved by your country in the social and economic spheres, are not merely achievements which we greatly admire but also achievements which can enrich our own experience. Convinced of the need to replace the old structure with one that is new, dynamic and revolutionary, the progressive forces joined together under the leadership and guidance of the visionary leader, Comrade Fidel Castro. [applause] This led to the creation of the integrated revolutionary organizations. In this manner, having established the fundamental bases, your party held its first congress in 1975. This constitutes a great lesson for legitimate Ethiopian revolutionaries who are in a stage of revolutionary development.

Although it is difficult to list all the achievements of your revolution under the proper guidance of the great revolutionary leader, Comrade Fidel Castro, we would like to mention some of these achievements. The successful eradication of illiteracy, your achievements in the field of public health, your successful creation of a true tradition of proletarian internationalism and the construction of a proud and independent socialist republic in the Western Hemisphere are not only to Cuba but also to the oppressed peoples of the world. [applause] Furthermore, your position--which has been consistently anticolonialist, anti-imperialist, antiracist and antiapartheid--and your internationalist policy have earned you the admiration of all those fighting for freedom and of revolutionaries all over the world. I feel particularly proud of being able to say that our dear Comrade Fidel Castro, who is known for his revolutionary zeal, his wisdom, his courage and his political vision, has earned a very well-deserved place in history. [applause]

Dear Comrade Fidel Castro, Comrade, I trust that within 3 months the representatives of Ethiopian youth, along with their other comrades from other continents, will show the revolutionary people of Cuba the life and struggle of the patriots, workers, peasants and artists of Ethiopia in this Plaza de la Revolucion, which is similar to the one we have in the center of our capital. [applause] I hope they will be able to project the image of the struggle being waged by the masses, as it is manifested in your folklore which today bears the mark of the revolutionary process which has given it a proletarian internationalist flavor. My comrades and I are confident that from this very plaza our common revolutionary slogan of "fatherland or death, we shall win" will resound throughout Cuba and the rest of Latin America through the voices of our youths. [applause]

Comrade, as I said earlier, the anti-imperialist struggles of the revolutionary masses of Cuba and Ethiopia share many similarities. The situation of the Ethiopian masses before February 1974 was as harsh and difficult as that of the Cuban masses before the revolution.

Ethiopia's masses have preserved their national independence by repelling and frustrating the repeated plots and acts of aggression carried out by the imperialists throughout history. As capitalism developed and acquired its imperialist nature, its internal contradictions led it to seek new expanded borders. Consequently, the Ethiopian masses became one of its targets.

At the end of the 19th century the three European imperialist powers--Great Britain, France and Italy--were making plans to achieve control of Ethiopia. Nonetheless, the contradictions among imperialists and their rivalries, as well as the Ethiopian masses' determination, frustrated their plans and their wicked designs against Ethiopia. In spite of this, between 1869 and 1880, Italy maneuvered constantly to control Ethiopia's northern sector. The secret tripartite treaty of 1882, concluded by Great Britain, France and Italy, finally enabled the latter to amputate and colonize Ethiopia's northern sector.

It is a well-known fact that since classes emerged a harsh struggle has been maintained between the oppressors and the oppressed, between the exploiters and the exploited, between the aggressors and the victims of aggression, as well as between the people and the antipopular forces. This struggle will continue so long as these contradictions exist. Because of this fact, the Ethiopian masses have never submitted to the abuses of the imperialists. The great masses have waged a heroic struggle against the enemies of their class, and significant victories have been won. The great masses continued their just struggle for liberation despite the coordinated conspiracy of the imperialists against them. This intensified the struggle between the two.

I am sure that our Cuban comrades are familiar with the famous battle of Aduwa, in which the oppressed masses of Ethiopia rose up in unison and demonstrated to the world the decisive nature of the people's power. In Aduwa international imperialism, particularly Italian imperialism, received a crushing blow. [applause] In 1896 the great Ethiopian masses won a great victory over Italian imperialism by annihilating the invaders. This great victory forced the imperialists to stop and think, to revise their strategy. This decisive victory thwarted the imperialists' plan against Africa and opened a new horizon to those who were fighting for the liberation of the continent. Aduwa is truly the 19th century equivalent of the protest of Baragua.

However, the efforts of the imperialists had not yet been halted. [applause] At the beginning of the 20th century, the imperialist powers, essentially Great Britain, France and Italy, signed another treaty to divide Ethiopia among themselves. However, this did not discourage the Ethiopian people from continuing their heroic struggle, on the contrary, it strengthened even more their determination to fight on.

As time passed the battle between independent Ethiopia and the imperialists became even more intense. In the '30's the antipopular nature of capitalism was revealed. In that period the Ethiopian people, like the Cubans, became the targets of that depraved system. The complex problems which the capitalist system was facing at the time led to the emergence of fascism. Then the fascist Italy of Mussolini, which failed to learn from the humiliating defeat inflicted upon it in the battle of Aduwa, decided to invade Ethiopia 39 years later. The Ethiopian masses continued their solitary anti-imperialist struggle with firm determination. At the cost of the immense sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of their sons and daughters, the Ethiopian masses struggled heroically to insure the territorial integrity of their fatherland and their human dignity.

Under these harsh conditions, which required supreme sacrifice, courage and determination, the Ethiopian people struggled throughout 5 years of fascist occupation until they were able to reaffirm national independence, thereby foiling Italy's attempt to colonize their country. Defeated on the battlefield, the imperialists tried to control Ethiopia by employing the futile methods of colonialism. As I attempted to explain to you, the Ethiopians waged this epic struggle against the imperialist forces to safeguard their human dignity and national independence.

Despite this, international imperialism continued to pursue its neocolonialist plan to impose its chains of servitude on the great Ethiopian masses. Exploiting the differences among the dominant classes and inciting those elements of society which best served its interests, international imperialism tried to maintain the systems of oppression in order to perpetuate its own existence.

During the second imperialist war, German fascism was repelled by the great forces of the vanguard of the Soviet workers. In addition the inherent weakness and the differences within European imperialism led to the emergence of a new center of power of international imperialism. This new antipopular force was U.S. imperialism.

Competing with British, French and Italian imperialism, U.S. imperialism began to extend its tentacles of exploitation to Ethiopia. The Ethiopian masses, maintaining their tradition of struggling for their legitimate liberation and independence, carried out a long, intense, clandestine resistance against the old order and its protector--U.S. imperialism. The king, who had fled to England, thus betraying the Ethiopian people while they were carrying a hard struggle against the invading forces of fascist Italy, returned to power with the consent of British imperialism and reestablished his oppressive control over the Ethiopian masses. Although many compatriots denounced this evil conspiracy and constantly protested this injustice, the feudal-bourgeois regime, lackey of imperialism, continued its efforts to suppress them.

Nevertheless, the masses, who were not going to submit to any oppression and exploitation, continued their struggle. Even in the face of the apparent enormity of U.S. imperialism, the masses resistance did not decrease but instead intensified. Although the forces of imperialism and the feudal-bourgeois order were deployed against the masses, they, instead of surrendering to these forces, continued forward until they had achieved notable victories.

It is impossible to narrate in the brief time of a speech all the hardships suffered by the great Ethiopian masses under the feudal-bourgeois system that had the support and close cooperation of imperialism or the struggle permanently waged by the masses. This must be left to historians.

Comrades, the land is the basis upon which the feudal system of production is established. Even so, millions of Ethiopians did not own land. Ninety-five percent of the cultivable land was owned by the dominant ruling classes while millions of peasants lived as tenant farmers and sharecroppers. Due to the landholding system, the shameless landowners took 75 to 80 percent of the product of the tenant farmers. Besides this, since the peasants were forced to pay several kinds of taxes and provide numerous services to the landowner, the oppression was intolerable and excessive. The handful of feudalistic and bourgeois individuals who held political and economic power had no concern for the country's economic development. In that period, Ethiopia was among the least-developed of the developing countries of the world. Therefore, the level of development of its industry and commerce was insignificant.

The total bankruptcy of the feudal-bourgeois system led by Haile Selassie was enormous. It was thoroughly exposed from 1973 to 1974 when in the administrative region of Wallo more than 200,000 peasants died from hunger. The chains of exploitation which international imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism, had imposed on the country and the unfair agreements which they concluded with feudalism intensified the oppression and exploitation of the masses. At the same time, the people's demonstrations and uprisings appeared everywhere. The struggle of the workers, peasants, intellectuals and students spread quickly throughout the country.

In February 1974 the already intolerable situation worsened and deteriorated in all aspects--economic, political and social. In the urban and rural areas, the masses faced an intolerable situation. Hunger, inflation, unemployment, prostitution and the mistreatment of the proletariat and peasants reached unprecedented extremes. The point was reached at which the masses could no longer continue tolerating this oppressive domination docilely. Similarly, imperialism and the ruling classes reached the point at which they could no longer remain in control. The contradictions among these antagonistic classes reached the point of confrontation with the intention and for the purpose of destroying each other.

The popular discontent stemming from the exploitation and oppression that the Ethiopian masses endured for centuries led to the formation of the student movement with its slogan: "land for whoever works it." The agitation [applause], the agitation promoted by the students among the masses resulted in the adoption of Marxism-Leninism as the correct strategy for struggle. This struggle enveloped the entire country and turned into the tumultuous revolution of February 1974.

The workers, peasants, soldiers, students, democratic elements and other sectors of the oppressed classes rose in revolutionary fashion to rock the bases of Haile Selassie's fascist feudal regime. They intensified their struggle. In a coordinated movement by the masses and the armed forces, the king, who had ruled the country for over 50 years, was deposed in September 1974 while the monarchy, which had lasted centuries, was abolished. [applause]

Since the masses had been deprived of their political rights by the old regime, there was not one politically organized group that could assume power. As a result of this, the armed forces accepted the responsibility of taking control of the state. For the first time in the long history of the Ethiopian masses, the power of the state had been seized from the hands of the king and the aristocracy.

The overthrow of Haile Selassie, an event of unprecedented importance in the history of the Ethiopian people's struggle, has helped to create a brilliant future for the organization of the masses. In this manner, by directing the actions of the Ethiopian masses through a program, the program of the national democratic revolution, tremendous popular victories over imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism have been achieved over the past 4 years. [applause]

Among these victories we would like to briefly mention the following: The land problem, a troublesome issue in the peasants' long struggle, has been resolved through the nationalization of all rural land. [applause] The principal production and distribution media, such as banks and insurance companies, which were instruments of exploitation wielded by the imperialists and the local bourgeoisie, have been nationalized for the benefit of the masses. [applause] Urban land and additional houses, which have constituted complementary means of exploitation by urban residents, have also been nationalized. The schools have been placed under the control of the masses and a new labor code has been proclaimed. In order to strengthen and guarantee the coordinated struggle of the masses and the achievement of their legitimate liberation through the only path, socialism, the program of the national democratic revolution has been drafted and implemented. [applause]

In order to increase the masses' political awareness and enable them to organize to assume their role as bulwark of the revolution, we have established the Provisional Office for Mass Organizational Affairs of the masses and the Marxist-Leninist political school. The great masses will achieve final victory over their enemies only when they have political awareness and are organized and armed. The appropriate conditions are being created so that the workers, peasants and progressive forces will participate in the revolutionary process.

The equality of all nationalities and religions has been recognized and the means to implement this are already on the way. The government has created favorable conditions and is taking all measures it believes necessary to help the progressive forces establish their vanguard--the labor party.

Comrades, all of these victories have not been achieved without sacrifice. Like you, the revolutionaries are well aware, because of their long struggle, that wherever there is revolution, there will also be counterrevolution. Similarly, victories are always accompanied by difficulties. This is the dialectical truth.

The internal and external alignment of forces deployed against the Ethiopian revolution has taken on different forms at different times. It can be divided into two categories: revolutionaries and counterrevolutionaries. Internally, the revolutionary forces are made up of workers, peasants, soldiers, leftist elements of the petty bourgeoisie, and progressive and patriotic forces. The external forces are represented by the socialist countries and democratic forces. The counterrevolutionary forces include, internally, the aristocrats, feudal elements, the rightist petty bourgeoisie and, externally, international imperialism, the reactionary governing cliques and the lackeys of imperialism.

The so-called Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party, the Ethiopian Democratic Union, the secessionist groups and the reactionary governing cliques of Somalia and some of the Arab states all have the same goals and objectives of supporting international imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism. They carry out its instructions against the great masses of the Ethiopian people.

Since the great masses of the Ethiopian people have matured even more in their struggle, the antipopular forces had to resort to new plans. In order to continue the internal weakening of the revolution by means of political and economic sabotage, the counter-revolutionary forces resorted to assassination. Many legitimate revolutionaries, leaders of workers, peasants and mass organizations, soldiers and patriots were assassinated in broad daylight by paid criminals. All of this was carried out with the goal of paving the way for a counterrevolution. But the great masses maintained their positions with firm determination. On repeated occasions, they tried to stage a coup d'etat. Nevertheless, the masses did not take a step back. In fact their revolutionary fervor, courage and determination to safeguard their revolution through vigilance was strengthened even more.

Recognizing the futility of their attempts in this regard, imperialism began to coordinate the efforts of its fifth column and the secessionist groups of the north. It finally cooperated with the clear aggression launched by the reactionary ruling class of Somalia in the eastern and southern parts of revolutionary Ethiopia.

The successive regimes of Somalia's ruling clique have always regarded the seizure of one-fifth of Ethiopia's territory, of Kenya's northeastern area and all of Djibouti's as their main objectives. For this purpose, they have been actively preparing for the past 17 years. When the internal reactionary forces began their useless attempts to fight Ethiopia's increasingly broad and strong revolution, Somalia's reactionary ruling class imagined that Ethiopia was weak and for this reason began to violate its very existence, its independence and the borders of our revolutionary fatherland.

In an attempt to change the course of the Ethiopian revolution, international imperialism, reactionary Arab governments and NATO member states gave large amounts of weapons to the reactionary Somali ruling class. The reactionary army, trained by the Somali ruling class for this useless adventure, went on with its invasion and eventually penetrated some 700 km into revolutionary Ethiopia's territory.

Since the Ethiopian revolution constitutes a part of the revolution staged by oppressed peoples all over the world, it has both friends and enemies at the international level. As I tried to explain earlier, with the support of the world's working peoples, we rejected the open attack launched against us by imperialism, Arab reaction and NATO member states. Regarding this, the support received from the socialist countries was always in the vanguard. [applause] The Ethiopian masses will always remember the internationalist and fraternal support given to them by Cuba, the Soviet Union, the Democratic Republic of Yemen [applause], the GDR and several other countries. [applause]

The struggle waged by the oppressed peoples of the world, increasingly coordinated after the Great October Revolution of 1917, has obviously triumphed in revolutionary Ethiopia.

Comrades, we shall never forget the support based on Leninist principles that the people of revolutionary Cuba offered to the revolution of the broad Ethiopian masses when it was in serious danger, threatened as it was by the invasion of the reactionary Somali Army coordinated by imperialism.

My comrade, the great revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, the people, the party and the government of revolutionary Cuba made great efforts to prevent the reactionary Somali ruling classes from beginning the hostilities. But as the madness that has taken over the Somali rulers is fated to destroy them, the peace efforts made by Comrade Fidel Castro were unsuccessful. Thus, when they realized the danger that this represented for the very existence of revolutionary Ethiopia, the people of revolutionary Cuba endorsed all the measures adopted by the broad Ethiopian masses, who in order to save the revolution united under the slogan: "revolutionary fatherland or death, everything for the front." [applause]

Aside from this support, the people of revolutionary Cuba also stood by the broad Ethiopian masses and participated in the final battle for victory. You, sons and daughters of revolutionary Cuba, well-known among the oppressed peoples of the world for your Leninist and internationalist positions, crossed thousands of kilometers to close ranks around the great masses of revolutionary Ethiopia. You have suffered their hardships, you have shared their sufferings, you have lived their lives and in fact have died their deaths. [applause]

This internationalist support contributed immensely to the success of the Ethiopian masses struggle to expel in a brief time the reactionary Somalian Army from the revolutionary fatherland. As a result of this, the fraternal ties that link the peoples of revolutionary Cuba and revolutionary Ethiopia have been sealed with blood. I want to repeat these words again and again: They have been sealed with blood; they have been sealed with blood. [applause]

These fraternal ties between the peoples of our two revolutionary countries can best be expressed by the historic words of Comrade Fidel Castro on the occasion of the centennial of the Baragua protest when he said: There is a special flower, a wreath, an homage to this centennial of glorious Gen Antonio Maceo, and it is the successful fulfillment of Cuba's internationalist mission in Ethiopia. [applause] It is like a great homage that his children are rendering to General Antonio. We feel so close, so near and fraternal to the Ethiopian revolutionaries as if they were here next to us, next to Maceo. [applause]

Comrades, although we have emerged victoriously from the aggression launched against us in eastern and southern Ethiopia, the struggle being waged by our revolution against the antipopular forces has not yet ended. As the reactionary forces have never willingly accepted the thrust [empuje] of the oppressed people, they will continue to fight against us. It is for this reason that imperialism, the reactionary Arab classes and the fifth columnists are conspiring to thwart our revolution, supporting, in the administrative region of Eritrea, the traitors who are currently plotting to sell their fatherland for petrodollars.

All the NATO countries which have been defeated in eastern Ethiopia have now turned their eyes to the north. They are trying to get in the north what they failed miserably to achieve in the east.

The Eritrean secessionists who pretended to be progressives in the era of the extinct monarchical domination have shown themselves to be mere opportunists. Ever since the beginning of the popular insurrection of February 1964, which has guided the masses along the path of democratic national revolution to numerous victories, they have been showing their true faces. It has become very clear that these secessionist groups are antipopular, reactionary and conspiratorial.

The revolutionary process has unmasked those forces. It becomes clearer day by day that, contrary to what they say, they have always been against rather than with the people; that they are reactionaries and not progressives; that they are antipopular instead of being in favor of the masses. It is an undeniable fact that these groups of the administrative region of Eritrea are agents of imperialism and Arab reaction and that they are trying to convert Eritrea into a base and stronghold of those reactionary forces for the purpose of strangling the people's revolution.

Counterrevolutionary attempts are carried out to prevent the masses of the Eritrean region from enjoying the results of the revolution. The position of the Ethiopian masses is clear. The masses of the Eritrean region, along with their brothers, will eliminate these secessionist groups and will convert the Eritrean region into a revolutionary stronghold. [applause] Nevertheless, I must reiterate that the gravity of the situation must not be underestimated. The secessionists are not alone. Numerous reactionary forces support them. The great masses of revolutionary Ethiopia also know that in their struggle against the current danger they can count on internationalist support.

Nevertheless, revolutionary Ethiopia has repeatedly tried to solve the problem of the administrative region of Eritrea through peaceful means. Naturally, Ethiopia will continue on the same path. [applause] The nine-point political declaration issued by the Provisional Military Administrative Council is among the measures taken in this regard. But the secessionist groups have not accepted these repeated calls for peace. Instead, they have intensified their antipopular conspiracy. As a result of this, the great Ethiopian masses are determined to intensify their just and revolutionary struggle to destroy this antipopular conspiracy. We are sure that the Cuban masses will be alongside us in these efforts for peace and in the revolutionary class struggle. [applause]

Comrades, we live in an era in which socialism is gaining decisive victories over imperialism. This is an era in which the borders of imperialism are contracting while those of socialism are expanding through the destruction of reactionary and exploitative systems. In spite of all this, imperialism as an enemy cannot be underestimated. The internal feuds and rivalries that once prevailed within the imperialist system are now being mitigated. At the same time, and since the important victories of socialism are greater every day, imperialism has cause for concern.

Meditating on the humiliations it has been subjected to as a result of the victories achieved first by the oppressed Cuban masses, then by Vietnam, more recently by Angola and now by Ethiopia, imperialism should realize the inevitable fate that awaits it. [applause] It is because it realizes all this that it has been forced to allay its internal feuds and to mobilize all its forces in order to wage the last battle. And this is clearly seen in the imperialist attempts to surround Ethiopia from all directions and to involve its revolution in a wave of violence. Nevertheless, the Ethiopian masses have resisted all these attempts with firm determination.

Since international imperialism is increasingly mobilizing its forces, the oppressed masses of the world should constantly consolidate the unity of their struggle. There can be no doubt that the unity of the oppressed peoples of the world in their struggle for national independence, democracy and socialism will guarantee final victory.

Revolutionary Ethiopia is fully aware of the important role it plays in this struggle of the oppressed peoples for national independence, democracy and socialism. As such, it is committed to give unlimited revolutionary support to these struggles. To this effect, the Ethiopian people and government fully support the efforts of the Latin American peoples to liberate themselves from the political domination and economic exploitation of imperialism. [applause]

This generation of Ethiopian revolutionaries has been closely following the struggle waged by the Latin American peoples during the past 20 years as a result of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. Nevertheless, most of the peoples of that hemisphere are currently tied down by the powerful imperialist force of China which is uselessly trying to prevent them from obtaining the political independence that will permit them to establish internal structures based on socialism and to guide their foreign relations on the basis of the principles of nonalignment. They are also tied down by the internal and external chains of exploitation so that they will not liberate their economies from the capitalist monopolies and secure their sovereignty over their resources.

The oppression and exploitation by U.S. imperialism of most of the Latin American peoples is much more severe than in other parts of the world. As a result the struggle of these peoples will be hard and bloody.

Upon expressing our admiration for the progressive and revolutionary forces of Chile led by their great leader the late President Salvador Allende [applause], and upon expressing our admiration for the struggle waged in complex and difficult situations, I must emphatically state that their sacrifices will not be in vain. The exploited peoples of Latin America have much to learn from the Chilean experience. Benefiting from that experience, we are sure that their struggle for independence, democracy, equality and socialism will be strengthened and consolidated even more. On this occasion, I would like to express the solidarity and unity of goals of revolutionary Ethiopia with the Chilean struggling masses. I also would like to express our solemn tribute to the memory of President Allende. [applause]

Upon analyzing the situation in Latin America, the case of the Guantanamo base comes to my mind. Regarding this, Ethiopia demands that the United States immediately and unconditionally evacuate the Guantanamo base, which is a vestige of imperialism on Cuban soil. [applause]

It also demands that the United States end all conspiracies against the progressive governments of the Caribbean. [applause] It condemns all actions carried out by the United States aimed at preventing the Panamanian people and government from exercising their sovereignty and jurisdiction over what is currently known as the Panama Canal Zone. [applause] It demands an immediate end to the colonial situations of Belize and the Malvinas Islands. [applause] It calls for the respect of the self-determination of the Puerto Rican people. [applause]

Comrades, since Ethiopia and Cuba are both members of the United Nations and of the nonaligned movement, they share a broad platform of international cooperation. The arms race and the existing gap between the developed and the underdeveloped worlds with regard to wealth and technology are among the principal threats to world peace. Imperialism's attempts to frustrate by various means the struggle that the oppressed and humiliated peoples of southern Africa are waging to recover their freedom and human dignity and its maneuvers to prevent oppressed peoples all over the world from exercising their right to self-determination and to establish a just and equitable social system cannot be dismissed as unimportant because of their possible consequences.

Therefore, Cuba and Ethiopia must prepare a strategy to unmask this common enemy and defeat him with the cooperation of other peoples. [applause]

We hope that both Cuba and Ethiopia will play important roles during the special UN session on disarmament that is slated for next month in New York in order to bring the arms race to an end and to free the material resources and human potential wasted in this race so they may be used for the benefit of mankind. [applause]

We also hope that our two countries will make greater and more varied contributions within the United Nations and the nonaligned movement in favor of the establishment of a new international economic order based on mutual benefit and equality.

I would like to take advantage of this occasion to affirm that revolutionary Ethiopia will further strengthen its solidarity with the southern African liberation movements in order to accelerate their liberation. [applause]

We warn imperialism that it must take its dirty hands out of all those places where anti-imperialist liberation movements exist. We also warn the reactionary forces which, led by their expansionist and interventionist ambitions, fight with the support and under the guidance of imperialism that they must desist from their useless attempts to defy the independence and integrity of sovereign nations. In short, since the unity of the world's peoples and the lasting victory of freedom, justice and equality are historic truths, we shall never abstain from pointing out both by words and deeds the failure of the positions adopted by imperialism and reaction.

Comrade Fidel Castro, Comrade, revolutionary people of Cuba, the Ethiopian revolution, an inseparable part of the struggle being waged by the proletariat and by other oppressed peoples, has reached a decisive stage. In order to safeguard the significant victories achieved in such a short time, the great Ethiopian masses are strengthening their organizational capacity and their military training and raising the level of their political awareness.

The elimination of poverty, disease and illiteracy from our land, the establishment of a social system free of exploitation and oppression based on socialism, and the development of a new generation of Ethiopian revolutionaries is the program undertaken by the national democratic revolution of Ethiopia. The struggle to achieve these noble objectives is long and difficult. In order to overcome the existing difficulties, the broad masses have risen in unison. They, too, are counting on your determined internationalist support. The fate of the masses of our two revolutionary countries, which despite geographic distances have already firmly established the unity of their struggle, will be indissolubly linked from now on.

I feel honored and happy to say here now that your struggle is ours and that our struggle is yours. [applause]

Hail the eternal friendship between the peoples of Cuba and Ethiopia! [shouts of "viva!"] Hail proletarian internationalism! [shouts of "Viva!"] The world belongs to the proletariat! Revolutionary fatherland or death! [applause] We shall overcome! We shall overcome! We shall overcome! [shouts of "We shall overcome"] Thank you. [applause]

Youth Festival Preparations

FL270136Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Jaime Crombet, member of the PCC Central Committee and party first secretary in Havana City, and Manueal Villamar, chairman of the 11th World Youth and Student Festival organizing committee, have held a meeting with 2d Lt (Eshetua Lemus), member of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and of that country's 11th World Youth and Student Festival preparatory committee. Second Lt (Eshetua Lemus) gave the national press broad details about preparatory activities in Ethiopia for the 11th festival. Ethiopia will participate in an event of this type for the first time in its history. He explained that a national youth festival will be held in Addis Ababa from 21 to 28 May and it will be a propitious setting for selecting the Ethiopian youths who will visit Cuba in July.

With our participation in the 11th festival, we will demonstrate the representation and strength of the Ethiopian revolution and the absence of differences between the men and women of our people, the PMAC member said. In noting the importance with Ethiopia attaches to the festival, he emphasized that the national preparatory committee in his country is headed by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam. Before concluding his remarks, the representative of the fraternal people conveyed a message to Cuban youths at the request of this national radio newscast.

[Begin recording, in Amharic with Spanish translation] I take this opportunity to say, on behalf of Ethiopian youths and for myself, that we admire the sacrifices made by Cuban youths. [end recording]

Mengistu Reception for Fidel

FL271130Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the Ethiopian Council of Ministers, held a reception last night in honor of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers. Attending the reception were members of the PCC Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee, and Council of Ministers vice presidents, ministers and representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country.

During the meeting held at Cubanacan's reception hall in Havana City, Fidel and Mengistu spoke with those attending.

Valentina Tereshkova, president of the USSR Women's Committee, was among the guests. She is in Cuba to attend a meeting of socialist countries women leaders.

PRAVDA PUBLISHES JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON MALMIERCA VISIT

For the apparent text of the joint communique on the occasion of the visit to the USSR by Isidoro Malmierca published by PRAVDA on 25 April, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 26 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

HUNGARY'S KORNIDESZ MEETS WITH ZOILO MARINELLO

FL261354Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Text] A Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] delegation has met with Zoiilo Marinello, PCC Central Committee member and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology. The delegation headed by Mihaly Kornidesz, chief of the Scientific, Public Education and Cultural Affairs Department of the MSZMP Central Committee, received a detailed briefing on the development of and prospects for science in Cuba.

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